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NEW YEAR'S DONATIONS FOR HOMES, &c.

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CAUTION.—Vice-Chancellor Sir W. Page Wood stated that Dr. J. Collis Browne was, undoubtedly, the Inventor of Chlorodyne; that the story of the Defendant, Freeman, was deliberately untrue, which, he regretted to say, had been sworn to."—See "Times," 13th July, 1854.

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—The session of the Chambers closed on Monday. The Chamber of Deputies passed by 321 to 127 the three months' vote on account of £41,280,640, which was at once sent up to the Senate, and agreed to by 192 to 3. The Budget had previously only been postponed beyond the close of the year in the abnormal years 1871 and 1877. In the Senate the Minister of Agriculture stated that the Government had not withdrawn the Bill raising the Customs' duty on cattle, but would move that the proposals for the protection of agriculture should be placed on the orders of the day at the reassembling of the Chambers. There are now six European countries (England, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Russia), where corn pays no import duty, and in six others (Switzerland, Norway, Italy, Germany, Austria, Greece), the duty now levied is less than that which the Government wish to impose. It is estimated that a workman's family of four persons will after the passing of this measure pay 48s. more per annum for its bread than at present.

FRANCE AND CHINA.—The Marseilles correspondent of the *Daily News*, telegraphing on Tuesday night, says:—"By the arrival of the mail I learn that there seems no chance of any settlement of the war troubles in China. It is stated that the Chinese negotiations drag on, but without results. The Chinese steamer from Hongkong to Tientsin brought thirteen German sergeants, or drill-masters, for the Chinese Army. They had just arrived from Germany, and had been engaged by the Chinese Government. On arriving at Shanghai they took passage as missionaries, and proceeded north. They are now on board some of the vessels of the Pei Yang squadron as officers and instructors. Li has now about 45,000 men. The Manchu Military Commissioner has a large force also, the numbers of which are variously stated by Chinese informants at from 40,000 to 60,000. From a very trustworthy source it is stated that when the French reached the coal mines at Keelung not a single soldier was seen on the spot. They had decamped some days before. The executive council in Cochin-China had decided to restrict temporarily the Chinese immigration. Chinese going to Saigon without passports duly certified by the French consular officers are liable to arrest or banishment. It is stated that the Chinese are despatching a fleet to Formosa to attack the French ships now blockading their ports."

ITALY.—The *Times* correspondent writes from Naples, December 24:—

"It is Christmas Eve, and despite the sad disaster which has so recently befallen Naples, all are outwardly full of life and merriment. The *zampognari*, a necessary element in the celebration of the season, have at last made their appearance. During the festivities of the Madonna Immacolata they were snowed up, but now for the last nine days their harsh bagpipes have been heard in every shop and every private house. Two wooden spoons of home manufacture guaranteed the contract between these rugged shepherds and the devout who engaged their services; and engravings of a Madonna and Bambino were placed in some conspicuous part with waxlights flaring beneath them. This morning the shepherds played their last, and now another scene presents itself. Standing on an eminence one may see the smoke ascending from a thousand chimneys. What luxuries does it announce? All the day the masses have observed complete abstinence from food, but they have an abundant compensation in the evening. Newfoundland has supplied many a hundredweight of saltfish for the principal dish: our sea, too, has had large demands made upon it. Every article of food has made its appearance, except meat, which would have created horror, and a hundred little nothings have contributed to load a table dedicated to a holy fast. But, alas, many a guest is missing whose presence enlivened the festivities of last year; so that the social character of Christmas has suffered much. Some there are whose food has swollen in their throats as they looked round on vacant places, and many outsiders accustomed to rally round the family hearth have feared to return and realise the losses which they have experienced. True is it that the majority of those who were carried off by cholera belonged to a class whose feelings are less sensitive, but numbers of others among the educated and wealthy will to-day and to-morrow shed bitter tears. All now have dined, and there is a rush to the churches to visit the Bambino in its cradle. A long line of worshippers from the doors to the altar where the manger is erected are waiting their turn to approach. They are very pretty though very fanciful structures, where, in some instances, may be seen all the animals saved from the flood. There is a choir of angels who surround the Bambino, and, even more, Divine Beings look down on the scene with complacency. Happy, thrice happy, are the thousands who will this evening visit these altars. No doubts disturb them, no scepticism suggests painful inquiries, they have nothing to do with investigation, imagination opens to them a brilliant scene which commands their sincere faith. Something of a different kind is going on outside the doors of the church. One might fancy oneself in a besieged town. Bombs are burstings and shots are heard in all directions. It is a custom, a tradition which defies the power of the police—all Southerners rejoice in noise. Remove the bombs from the streets, and the irrepressible people will fire guns from their windows or from the tops of their houses. The hospital or the Pretura do not frighten them, so that the Pellegrini has already received some victims minus an eye or a hand, and the Pretura has had to administer justice in the form of a fine or imprisonment. *Vive la bagatelle!* And this will continue till New Year's Day. All this week, too, the principal streets have been blocked up by the traditional *bancarelli* and licensed pedlars with most tempting fineries. As well might one attempt to suppress the lottery as to forbid the establishment of the *bancarelli* in the Toledo and some other public places. And, truth to say, one has some sympathy with these little merchants, for there is great suffering among them; buying and selling have been out of the question during the cholera. But unfortunately our usual brilliant weather has this week changed and tremendous tempests have raged, so that the small shopkeepers have altogether been disappointed in their hopes. People are now all going off to the midnight mass. Two cold hours they will pass, from eleven o'clock till one o'clock after midnight, but they are well primed by a good supper and are able to resist discomfort."

GERMANY.—The *Norddeutsche Zeitung* publishes a denial of Prince Bismarck's intention to visit Paris. The ambassadors of the two countries enjoy the confidence of their Governments, and were a personal interview necessary between the directors of German and French foreign policy it could be obtained without the sensation caused by a visit of the Chancellor to Paris. The Princess has been advised to spend the winter in the south, and the Prince has been advised for his health to place himself out of the reach of public business for a time.

The Berlin *National Zeitung* hears that the Powers have agreed virtually to ignore the proposals of England with respect to Egypt unless England expressly insists on having an answer to her communication. "One Behind the Scenes," writing in the *Daily News*, accepting this statement, observes:—

"This is the manner in which the Continental Powers believe themselves warranted in treating us. But why do I say the Continental Powers? The decision is the decision of Prince Bismarck; the policy is the policy of Prince Bismarck. The German Chancellor stands between his two servants, France and Austria, like the man in Aristophanes' comedy between his two slave girls, and instructs them how to mock at the neighbour whom he dislikes. Prince Bismarck detests the present English Government, and is determined to wreck it if he possibly can. Austria and France will lend him their willing and complete co-operation. The belief, or at least the confident hope, of Prince Bismarck is that if he can frustrate the policy of the present Government in Egypt, Mr. Gladstone will have to resign. This, I repeat, is the object of all the recent action of the German Chancellor with regard to England and to Egypt. Prince Bismarck is very sore about the manner in which he considers himself to have been dealt with in the matter of the Angra Pequeña settlement. He is of opinion that Germany and her Chancellor were treated somewhat carelessly and cavalierly by the English Foreign-office. Of course he has other reasons for his present course of action. His desire, often expressed to successive Ministries, is that England should take over Egypt absolutely, and make of her an English possession. This would have been a letting out of the waters. It would have been the opening of a great chapter of miscellaneous and universal annexation. When England had felt herself entitled to seize upon Egypt, and had been upheld in that course by such a Power as Germany, England could not have objected to any seizure Germany desired to make; and the example of Germany would have been followed by France and Italy; and there would have to be some new maps of the world made for the instruction of young scholars—and old ones too. Prince Bismarck holds Mr. Gladstone and his official colleagues responsible for a check to the ambition of Germany, and he is angered; and he is not a man who gets angry and then forgets all about it. The long and the short of it is that the German Chancellor is now making himself a factor in English political affairs. He will leave no means untried to overthrow Mr. Gladstone's Government, or at all events to get rid of Mr. Gladstone. England is to be insulted in Egypt in order that Mr. Gladstone may be humiliated and may have to resign; and Mr. Gladstone is to be forced into resignation because Prince Bismarck does not like him."

On Monday the *Norddeutsche Zeitung* published an inspired article criticising this theory. Among the Continental Powers, it says, France had the greatest interest in the future of Egypt; if, therefore, England and France were agreed, it would be easy for the remaining Powers to fall in with their views.

RUSSIA.—It is stated that the relations between Russia and Khiva are becoming more and more unsatisfactory. The Khan is accused of sheltering all sorts of suspicious persons and sharing in their plunder. The road between Krasnovodsko and Khiva, formerly one of the safest routes, is now infested with robbers.

About 10,000 roubles have been extracted from the St. Petersburg Treasury in gold and silver bullion, in consequence of which payment of the salaries of all Treasury officials has been suspended until the conclusion of the investigation. One of the officials concerned is reported to have poisoned himself.

According to the *St. Petersburg Gazette* an extraordinary advance of 100,000 roubles has been granted to General Komaroff for the construction of a telegraph line between Askabad, Merv, and Sarakhs.

The *Times* Odessa correspondent, writing last week, says:—"The *Novoya Vremya* (New Time) says there lately came from England to the Western provinces of Russia a Mr. Reabedy, with the object of making converts to Christianity among the Jews who abound in those provinces. It appears, however, that, although he sojourned among them for several weeks, and disputed with them in their own Hebrew-German jargon, he signally failed in his attempt to convert any one except a poor little outcast orphan girl whom he came across at Grodno. Everywhere else his attempt was a complete failure; and at Vilno, the capital of the former Duchy of Lithuania, it was more than a failure, inasmuch as there he was robbed by a young Jew who simulated the desire to turn Christian in order to gain Mr. Reabedy's confidence, and thereby be able the more easily to rob him. No other Jew there evinced a wish to change his faith. The *Novoya Vremya* might have added that there is nothing at all surprising in this missionary's failure. In proof of this, a society for supporting missions to the Jews has had an agent (a *soi-disant* converted Jew) here at Odessa for the last ten years, upon a yearly salary of £200, who has not succeeded in converting one Jew during the whole of that time, and that, too, notwithstanding the Jewish population of Odessa is computed to be no less than 70,000. The fact is, Jews do not, as a rule, desire to be converted to Christianity, and when they do it is not, generally speaking, for conscience' sake, but in order to improve their worldly condition, or to obtain some advantage, such as being allowed to reside in St. Petersburg or at Moscow. Frequently have Jews asked clergymen here how much money would be paid to them for becoming Christians; and when told 'nothing,' they wanted to know then what gain the change would bring to them, meaning, of course, in a material sense. To say nothing of religious difficulties, there are social reasons for a Jew's reluctance to become a Christian. The Jews, as Jews, are veritable Freemasons, and go where they will, throughout the world, if they come across co-religionists are sure to receive succour if they need it. On the other hand, there are not many Christians who would be likely to hold forth the helping hand to any one merely on the strength of his asserting that he was a convert to Christianity. Further, besides being entirely cut off from their own people, converted Jews are also as irrecoverably severed from their relatives and friends. Hence, if a married Jew becomes a Christian, he must be divorced if his wife refuses to become converted too; and a converted wife must be divorced if her husband refuses to follow in her steps. Hence, the home is broken up, and its members are scattered. Nay, more, the father, the mother, and the children become enemies to one another, and the converted one goes forth into the world loaded with the curses of his or her people, relatives, friends, and neighbours. May it not, therefore, be asked whether it be worth while to attempt the conversion of people upon such terms?"

DENMARK.—The Danish Minister of Marine has submitted to the Landsthing a scheme for increasing the Navy which involves an extraordinary expenditure of nine million crowns, to be distributed over the next seven years. Together with the ordinary expenditure of 1,700,000 crowns to be applied for the next seven years for the same purpose, the following sums will be expended:—Completion of the ironclad battery Iver Hoitfeldt, 1,500,000 crowns; two large ironclads each costing five millions, 10,000,000 crowns; one large and fast reconnoitring cruiser with ironclad deck, heavy guns, and torpedo armament, 2,500,000 crowns; one small corvette, 1,700,000 crowns; one schooner, 700,000 crowns; one gunboat of the Gröhsund class, 260,000 crowns; two fast gunboats with ironclad deck, one heavy gun, and torpedo armament, each costing 950,000 crowns, 1,900,000 crowns; five first-class torpedo boats, each 220,000 crowns, 1,100,000 crowns; 13 second-class torpedo boats, each 80,000 crowns, 1,040,000 crowns; total, 20,700,000 crowns (£1,117,800), or at the rate of £160,000 per annum. But this is not all. The War Minister wants for fortifications the sum of 40,513,000 crowns (£2,187,700), distributed as follows:—For strengthening the sea fortifications of Copenhagen, 14,102,000 crowns; for fortifications on the land side of the capital, 19,511,500 crowns; for fortifying Helgenäs, Jutland, 6,900,000 crowns. The works are to be completed by 1892. If the money is voted by the Riksdag, as desired, Denmark will spend during the next seven years for strengthening her defences £3,305,500, or over £472,000 per annum, which is considerable for a country with an annual revenue of only £2,735,005 (1884-5).

AMERICA.—A correspondence has been published between Mr. Cleveland and the Civil Service Reform Association, in which the President-elect declares his intention to enforce the Civil Service law in good faith and without evasion:—

"He says worthy incumbents of offices not within the scope of the law will not be removed for partisan reasons, but will be allowed to remain until the close of their terms. Only those will be removed who have forfeited all just claim to retention by using their offices for party purposes, and, instead of being decent public servants, have been offensive partisans and unscrupulous manipulators of the local party management. While Democrats may expect all proper consideration, selections for offices not embraced in the Civil Service rules will be based upon fitness rather than persistent importunity or self-solicited recommendations."

A despatch from Washington published in New York states that during the debate in the secret sitting of the Senate on the 20th ult. upon the Nicaragua Treaty one of the speakers emphasized the fact that the treaty placed the Senate in an embarrassing position. He pointed out that if it failed the failure would be understood by Europe as a practical abandonment by the United States of their Isthmian policy, which, it was urged, would be a great humiliation. On the other hand, the ratification of the treaty would test the contention of the British Ministry that the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty was still in force and could not be abrogated or voided by America at will. The tenor of the debate indicated that the number of votes necessary for the ratification of the treaty was obtainable, but that it was a question whether it would be expedient to ratify the arrangement and then be met by a vigorous protest against the execution of its provisions. The debate further revealed the fact that unless a large sum be included in the regular Naval Appropriation Bill to enable the incoming Administration to continue building war-vessels the treaty would not be ratified. The Republican senators said that it was a very serious matter for the Government to propose so radical a measure in its helpless condition. The course of the debate is generally known to the leading members of the House, and the necessity for a Navy is now better under understood than at any previous time.

General Grant's insolvency, arising from Grant and Ward's failure (the American correspondent of the *Times* says) attracts great attention. Mr. Vanderbilt has been pressing General Grant for payment of his 150,000dol. cheque, which the latter borrowed from him for that firm just before their failure. General Grant has stripped himself of everything to settle the claim. Mr. Vanderbilt has levied on the General's personal effects. They will be sold under execution on the 3rd of January, unless the case be settled. The seizure includes his swords, his keepsakes, the gold box presented to him in London, and similar gifts. Mr. Vanderbilt will afterwards have General Grant's houses and farms in Philadelphia, St. Louis, and elsewhere to proceed against. The General accepts the situation stoically, and will yield everything without a murmur. He has made arrangements to write articles for the *Century Magazine*, upon the proceeds of which he can live. His friends recently began a movement to save him by paying Mr. Vanderbilt, who now offers to accept 100,000dols. in full payment. General Sherman, Messrs. George W. Childs, Cyrus Field, A. J. Drexel, Hamilton Fish, and others will contribute to this fund, and then have General Grant's property bought and placed in trust in order to secure it. General Grant has aged rapidly in the past few months. His misfortune has affected him greatly. He continues lame, and is otherwise seriously ill. He will visit Philadelphia next week for medical treatment.

SPAIN.—The sessions of the Cortes reopened on Saturday. Señor Moyano attacked the Government in the Senate with regard to the late students' demonstration, and a vote of censure was demanded, but its discussion was postponed.

The Spanish-African Society lately sent another expedition to the Gulf of Guinea. On arriving it found that a German agent had already occupied the greater part of the extensive districts occupied by Spain in 1843 and 1857, near the mouth of the Muni River, to the north of the French Colony of Gaboon. Accordingly the present Spanish Expedition seems to have taken possession of inland territories 5,800 square miles in extent, behind the German settlement of Wast, which is close to the Spanish Island of Corisco. Spain obtained the assent to this measure of eighty native chiefs and ten tribes, who recognised her sovereignty.

Shortly before nine o'clock on the evening of Christmas Day there was an earthquake which was felt slightly in Madrid and most severely in the provinces of Malaga and Granada, where there was severe loss of life. The damage was not so great in the large towns, but several smaller ones have been completely wrecked, especially Arenas del Rey, where forty persons were killed; Albuquera, where 150 persons lost their lives; Olivar, where ten were killed; and Cajar, where there were twelve deaths. The total number of victims in the province of Granada is stated to be 526, besides about 100 in the province of Malaga. At Alhama, in the former province, the greater part of the town is in ruins; already 350 bodies have been dug out. At Periana a church and 750 houses were destroyed. There were slight shocks on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and the population continue in a state of alarm, and camp out to a great extent in the squares and open places. The façade of the Cathedral at Granada has been seriously damaged; and the Cathedral at Seville has been injured, especially the Giralda Tower. The Alhambra and other monuments of Granada have escaped. The Government have granted £100 for the relief of distressed inhabitants in the province of Granada.

Two fresh shocks of earthquake occurred on Tuesday evening in the provinces of Malaga and Granada—one at seven, and the other at ten o'clock. Some more buildings were destroyed, and it is feared that the total number of victims in the two provinces amounts to 2,000. Renewed shocks, attended with loss of life and destruction of property, are also reported from Periana, Riogordo, Vinuela, and Alfarnatejo.

BURMAH.—We learn from a correspondent (says the *Guardian*) that the fourth anniversary of the dedication of the new buildings of St. Luke's Mission, Toungoo (said to be the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel station furthest from the General Post-office), was celebrated on St. Luke's Day, October 18:

"There was a choral celebration of the Holy Communion at 6.30, the Rev. W. E. Jones, senior missioner-in-charge, celebrant. Matins at nine o'clock were sung by the Rev. A. Salmon in Karen up to the Third Collect, and the rest in Burmese by the Rev. J. Kristna. The First Lesson was read in Karen by one of the catechist students, and the Second in Burmese with a short exposition by the Rev. J. Kristna. The Rev. W. E. Jones preached in Karen. While at breakfast a telegram was received from the Bishop as follows:—'Joyous festival; give treat to boarders to-day at my expense.' Breakfast over, the Rev. W. E. Jones gave a short account of the progress during the year. The debt on the buildings, which this time last year amounted to Rs.3,000, had been reduced to about Rs.500. This, it was hoped, the friends of the Mission would enable the missionaries to pay off before the end of the year. In the last three or four months a girls' school (boarding) had been started under the superintendence of Mrs. Salmon, and already the boarders were about ten in number, besides day scholars. In addition to this a catechists' training school had been established, to which nine young men had been admitted. The numbers of the members of the Church had increased in the last seven years from 1,800 to nearly 4,500. The afternoon was spent in providing sports and a treat for the scholars, of whom there are nearly 300, including about eighty (Christian) boarders."

INDIA.—The Maharanah of Oodeypore has died at the age of 25. Though not one of the great feudatories of the Indian Empire, he was the head of the oldest and purest among Rajpoot princely families, the origin of which is lost in antiquity, the only Indian dynasty that has held its present territory for eight centuries, which boasts that it alone of Rajpoot families refused to give its daughters in marriage to the Mogul Emperors. The deceased Prince, a young man of great promise, succeeded about ten years ago, and during his short life succeeded in putting an end to the historical feud between two great Rajpoot houses, Oodeypore and Jodhpore.

The success of Mr. Macaulay's mission to Thibet is now assured. The Regent of the Tashu Lama at Shigatze has sent a most cordial reply to Mr. Macaulay's letter to him from the frontier, and has also addressed a letter to the Viceroy. It is said that with these letters, besides the silk scarves which ordinarily accompany Thibetan correspondence, he has sent some relics of the late Tashu Lama himself, and has asked Mr. Macaulay to send him a Thibetan-English dictionary and phrase-book and some scientific instruments. This is the first official communication received from Thibet for about a hundred years. The *Times* correspondent adds:—

"The infant in whom Tashu Lama is supposed to have been born again will be identified next year, and if the Government will mark the event by sending an envoy with congratulations it will have taken an important step towards securing a new ally and opening a vast market for English and Indian goods."

TURKEY.—The dissensions in the Cabinet still continue, and are aggravated by the constant complaints that the officials make of the irregularity in the payment of their salaries and the insecurity of their situations. The *Times* correspondent says:—

"The Ministers of Finance and of Commerce and

Agriculture are specially at variance with Said Pasha, and on several occasions warm discussions have arisen between them on administrative differences, coupled with the offensive attitude of the Grand Vizier. The alleged inexplicable hold possessed by Said on the Sultan's mind, enabling the Minister to disregard even the Imperial orders, makes the Ministers afraid to approach their Sovereign with complaints."

The antagonism between the Arab and Circassian elements surrounding the throne has also brought about a conflict within the last few days, on the pretext of an attempt to get up a subscription to publish a *History of Circassia*. The principals in this affair, Ahmed Bey, chief of the political Cabinet; Suleiman Bey, Aide-de-Camp to the Sultan; and Zia Bey, Director of the Imperial Kitchens, were arrested on Saturday week. In this history Ahmed Bey described himself as descended from a family of Princes, and the Palace became alarmed, suspecting that a plot to create a Circassian Principality was concealed beneath the subscription. The police have warned the public against subscribing.

The Porte has sent a circular to the Powers denying the reports of the atrocities in Macedonia. The three telegrams on the subject, despatched by the meeting at Philippopolis on the 14th ult. to Mr. Gladstone, the Duke of Argyll, and M. de Laveleye, were stopped by the East Roumelian Government, in the exercise of the authority given by the St. Petersburg Convention.

There has been another mutinous outbreak among the Anatolian soldiers at Salonica. The men refused to eat their food as they said it was bad, and also demanded the arrears in their pay, which in some cases had been due for twenty months.

EGYPT.—Lord Wolseley has received, by the hands of an Arab, a small slip of paper containing the words: "Khartoum all right. Dec. 14.—C. G. GORDON." This messenger reports that the Mahdi is besieging Khartoum with a force variously estimated at from twenty to eighty thousand men, with whom Gordon has continual skirmishes.

The *Standard* correspondent who has seen the message sent by General Gordon, says:—"It is a tiny scrap of paper no larger than a postage-stamp, and could be easily concealed, however strictly its bearer was searched. I have had a talk with the man who brought it to-day. General Gordon is a great smoker, and it is satisfactory to learn that he is amply provided with tobacco. He had a personal interview with the messenger before the man set out, and when he left him offered him a cigarette. The messenger says that General Gordon has two palaces at Khartoum, and that he has a gun in position on the flat roof of each of them. At sunrise daily he mounts to the roof, and makes a careful survey of the whole country with his telescope, and marks any changes which may have taken place in the enemy's position. If nothing unusual has happened, and there are no signs of any movement on the part of the Mahdi's men, he retires into his quarters and sleeps the greater part of the day. He rises before sunset, and after darkness has set in he starts for the ramparts, perambulates all night, seeing that the sentries are all properly posted and on the alert, and cheering the troops by his conversation and example."

From a Reuter's telegram it would appear that the main body of the False Prophet's army is two days south of Khartoum, at Jabbara (or Shebarah), where the Mahdi is reported to have told the assembled chiefs, who demanded that he should place himself in the front of battle to shield them from hostile bullets, that he had learnt in a dream that the Mudir of Dongola was a Saint, against whom it was useless to fight.

A telegram has been received at Cairo from the Mudir of Dongola, dated the 26th ult., stating that a native of Khartoum has arrived at Dongola, having taken a fortnight to accomplish the journey. He stopped at Drudurman by order of General Gordon for four days, in order to gather information regarding the Mahdi's position and to bring it to Dongola. The messenger reports that the Mahdi and his followers are suffering severely from famine, and that the dead bodies of several of their number are to be seen unburied in the surrounding country. He also states that the Mahdi's followers are greatly discouraged by the repeated attacks of the Egyptian troops, and that many have dispersed on the news of the approach of the British. A large number of the Mahdi's regulars had entered Khartoum and submitted to General Gordon.

The *Neue Freie Presse* hears from Cairo that Sir Evelyn Baring has given the Egyptian Ministry to understand that the different projects for the settlement of the financial question submitted by the English Government to the Cabinets concerned having been rejected, no fresh proposals of the kind would be made. So long as the English troops were engaged in operations in the Soudan, there could be no question of evacuation. Meanwhile, England would endeavour to administer Egypt with the help of the State revenue. The surplus would be distributed amongst the bondholders. On the other hand, it would be impossible to meet the indemnity claims or to guarantee a regular liquidation of coupons. As soon as the English troops should return from Khartoum, Egypt would be evacuated. England would not be responsible for the consequences resulting from these measures. The correspondent adds that the foreign representatives do not manifest undue concern at Sir Evelyn Baring's communication.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Standard*, writing on Sunday night, says:—"There is no doubt that the Egyptian crisis has reached an acute stage, and the vigorous steps towards a decisive international intervention independent of England, to which I alluded some days ago, may be hourly expected. The situation resembles that in the days previous to the appearance of the German Leibjäger in the Khedivial Palace in the small hours of the morning of May 18, 1879; which scene Ismail Pasha vividly described to me at the interview I had with him at Marienbad some months ago. I have special reasons for remembering this Marienbad conversation, because everything has since happened pretty much as foretold. 'Lord Northbrook,' said the ex-Khedive, 'will see or learn nothing but what others have seen before him, and the situation will remain after his visit, as before, a question between England and the Powers. 'Why,' he added, 'change Tewfik for another puppet? Will any one be more docile and forbearing? The question has now become one of pressing actuality, if what is rumoured in diplomatic circles has any real basis."

AUSTRALIA.—The following items of news are taken from the *Melbourne Argus* of the 19th of November:—"A heavy rainfall has occurred in most parts of Victoria, greatly improving the growing crops, though some of them had been quite ruined by long drought. The labour market is moderately supplied. There continues to be a good demand for all classes of labour, and the registry-office keepers assert that the supply of servants, domestic and otherwise, is completely exhausted. In New South Wales the immigrants arriving are being readily absorbed, farm labourers and domestic servants being mostly sought after. Arrangements have been completed for holding a Roman Catholic council at Sydney on September 8, 1885, to which Archbishop Moran, in his capacity of Papal Delegate, has summoned all the prelates of the Roman Catholic Church in Australasia. The crops in the southern districts of New South Wales are reported to be looking splendid. Rain sufficient to provide three months' supply of water has fallen in some parts of the western districts of the colony. New South Wales has agreed to join South Australia in erecting a rabbit-proof fence along the border of the colonies. The extent to which the rabbits are increasing and desolating the country is said to be absolutely astounding. In the Queensland Parliament the Land Bill has passed through committee, and was read a third time in the Assembly, after being discussed for several weeks. The Minister of Lands stated that 20,000,000 acres of land would be open for selection within the schedule area, but that only about a quarter of the area would be actually available for selection. Immigration to Tasmania has been virtually stopped. Two hundred more immigrants, in addition to the 278 already nominated in England, will be sent out. In New Zealand the consideration of the federal resolutions has been postponed till next session. Parliament has agreed to contribute a portion of the £15,000 subsidy towards the maintenance of the New Guinea protectorate.

The *Jewish Chronicle* says:—"The recent conference held at Kattowitz, Upper Silesia, is likely to have a considerable influence upon the colonisation of Palestine by Jews. The delegates were not merely men filled with religious aspirations: they were pious men of a distinctly practical turn of mind, many having large means of their own, and commanding considerable influence among the Jews of Russia and elsewhere. The address of Dr. Pinsker, the president, was an eloquent advocacy in favour of persecuted Jews turning to the land of their fathers for rest and hope. We are assured that the Turkish Government regards the movement with no unfavourable eye. It requires only that its sovereign rights shall be strictly maintained and respected by the colonists. An influential provisional committee has been formed, and collections have been set on foot in all the Jewish communities throughout the world. Although in London the movement has not been 'recognised' in an influential quarter, collecting-boxes by hundreds are being distributed, and a local committee formed with very promising results."

Bavarian papers report the death, after a short illness, of a very distinguished man of science, Dr. Philip von Jolly, Professor of Mathematical and Experimental Physics in the University of Munich, in the 75th year of his age. He was a younger brother of the well-known Baden statesman. He studied at the Universities of Heidelberg, Vienna, and Berlin, and in the course of a few years after the completion of his studies he became one of the ordinary Professors of Heidelberg. He migrated to Munich in 1854 and remained there. He was drawn gradually from the domain of applied mathematics to the pursuit of experimental science, in some departments of which he acquired the highest reputation. He enlarged the knowledge already possessed of molecular forces by his discovery of the laws which govern endosmotic phenomena, and he made important researches concerning the expansion of gases by heat. He also made some important observations on the variations in the physical condition of the atmosphere, which led to the discovery of a new method of ascertaining the weight of the earth and its mean density. He was President of the Bavarian Geographical Society, and was in the chair at a meeting as lately as the 15th of December.

The death is announced of Dr. Blum, Bishop of Limburg, one of the martyrs of the Kulturkampf. Not one of the clergy in all his diocese would recognise the May Laws, and Blum himself, as one of the chief non-jurors, was evicted from his office in 1877, and escaped imprisonment only by flight to Bohemia. Reinstated in 1883 by virtue of the discretionary powers conferred on the King of Prussia by one of the Falk Laws Amendment Acts, he made a sort of triumphal procession to his episcopal capital; but his powers were by this time broken, and now he has died at the age of 76, after having, in the opinion of the clerical *Germania*, well earned the title of "Vindex Libertatis Ecclesiæ."

A report has reached us (*St. James's Gazette*) from Larnaca to the effect that considerable excitement prevails there in consequence of the discovery of serious frauds in the Revenue Department. The amount of the defalcations which had been discovered up to the time of the mail leaving is stated to have been not less than £50,000, and the investigation had not been completed. Seven or eight officials are said to have absconded; their escape from the island to Asia Minor having been made in small sailing craft. It is further alleged that some of the account-books of the Department have been destroyed. The elected members of the Legislature will, it is said, bring the matter before the notice of the Council as soon as it assembles, and Lord Derby will be memorialised, as there is believed to be a desire in certain quarters to hush up the matter.

Painted windows as memorials of departed worth have more than ordinary interest in the eyes of all. Mr. W. G. Taylor (late O'Connor) has at all times pleasure of showing his various works for church and hall in progress, the introduction of likenesses in windows being a special study. Designs and estimates free. Medal awarded to works in Paris Exhibition.—The "Art" Works, 4, Berners-street, London.

THE NILE EXPEDITION.

Lord Wolseley's plans are so far developed, and such movements of troops have been ordered, that we are now enabled to see in what way he means to relieve Khartoum. In order that Lord Wolseley's position may be exactly understood, it may be stated that between Khartoum and Korosko the Nile describes a couple of gigantic curves in opposite directions, giving its course roughly the shape of the letter S. A straight line from Korosko to Khartoum would run almost due south, and would cross the Nile above the fourth cataract—that is to say, about one hundred miles higher up than Korti, where Lord Wolseley's headquarters are at present. From Khartoum the river runs north-north-east to Berber, then north-north-west to Abou Hamed, which is due north of Khartoum. From that point it runs south-west for a hundred and fifty miles, nearly parallel with its course from Khartoum to Berber, but in the opposite direction, so that Dongola, where it again turns northward, lies nearly due west from Berber and a hundred miles nearer Khartoum than Abou Hamed. From Korosko to Abou Hamed in a straight line is about one-third of the distance that has to be covered if the course of the river is followed. Korti, though a hundred miles lower down the river than Abou Hamed, is thus further from Korosko. Again from Korti to Shendy, on the way to Khartoum, is twice as far by the river as by the intervening desert. From Korti across the desert to Shendy, which lies halfway between Khartoum and Berber, is a journey of 180 miles, with two waterless distances of fifty miles each, there being good wells halfway—that is at Gakdul.

Sir Herbert Stewart started on Tuesday for Gakdul, a three days' journey, with a force mounted on camels, his chief object being to convoy a quantity of stores. According to the special correspondent of the *Morning Post*, the force consists of 1,100 men and 1,800 camels. The Guards and marines number 381, the mounted infantry 31, the heavy dragoons 90 men, with 239 camels; the light cavalry 90 men, with 250 camels; the Royal Engineers 29 men, with 40 camels; the artillery, without guns, 20 men, with 16 camels; the commissariat 20 men and 200 natives, with 500 camels; the 19th Hussars, 45 men and horses; the medical staff, 4 officers, 15 men, and 30 natives, with 90 camels, including a section of moveable hospital tents, a section of bearers, and a company of litters, with 750 gallons of water. Every man carries seven gallons of water, seven days' rations, 150 rounds of ammunition, the reserve being 40,000 rounds. The Guards and marines remain at Gakdul, the other troops are to return at once, bringing back the Guards' camels. Brigadier-General Stewart will, on his arrival at Gakdul, place there 60,000 rations. The artillery, with the light cavalry and the heavy dragoons, will act as a transport column, two-thirds, being dismounted, will remain behind, their camels, loaded, being led by the other third. A small post of fifty men may be established at Hambok, fifty miles from Korti.

Telegraphing on Tuesday afternoon the *Standard* correspondent says:—

"The camp is at present a scene of the most lively animation and bustle. The trumpets are sounding, and the angry discontented roar of the camels as their loads are placed on their backs arises from all parts of the camp. Everything is going on well, and the column will be ready to start at the appointed hour. The men who are going with the column are in high spirits, although the mounted infantry have only before them the prospect of a dreary march across the desert to Gakdul and back. Those who are left behind are quite disappointed at what they consider their hard luck. The servants who have come with us from Dongola are quite ready to proceed by the Nile route, *viâ* Merawee and Berber, and to take their chance of hostile attacks; but they refuse altogether to cross the desert to Metemneh, showing strongly enough their opinion as to the relative risk run by the two divisions of the expedition."

As the time appointed for the assembly of the column approached, the din in the camp gradually subsided. The camels, once laden, ceased their protestations, and stalked off silently to the ground marked out for them, and thither the Guards Camel Corps and the mounted infantry presently proceeded in more regular order. The column was formed in this order:—A small detachment of the 19th Hussars acted as scouts; the front proper of the column was formed by the Guards Camel Corps, numbering 380 men; then came the transport camels arranged in column, with from twenty to thirty marching abreast, and with fifty yards' interval between each troop; the mounted infantry, 390 strong, bringing up the rear, and being, like the Guardsmen, in close column of companies, ready to dismount and form square at a moment's notice. Lord Wolseley inspected the force before it started, and about three o'clock the column struck away across the undulating and pebbly plain. "It was a strange sight," we are told, "to see the two thousand camels with their necks stretching out like ostriches, and their four thousand pairs of long legs moving along in military array, until the rising dust first blended desert, men, and camels in one uniform grey hue, and finally hid them from the sight of those who remained in camp."

The correspondent of the *Standard* observes that broad as was the face on which this strange column marched, it extended fully a mile in length, and would be an unwieldy body in case of an attack by the enemy.

"The camel corps and mounted infantry could form up quickly enough; but confusion would be likely to prevail among the baggage animals, for camels are the most obstinate of creatures, and object particularly to sudden and hurried movements. Their Somali drivers, too, could scarcely be expected to be very cool or steady if suddenly assailed by a large body of yelling tribesmen. In case of an attack the Guards will form square echelloned on the left front of the column; the mounted infantry will do the same on the right rear. The column is, however, so long that their fire would hardly cover the entire line, unless the enemy were perceived approaching long before their attack to give time for the baggage camels to close up into a compact body. As, however, there is very little likelihood of any opposition being offered at present, if at all, the column will have time on the road for a little drill, to accustom the drivers to their duties in case of the appearance of an enemy.

"Lord Wolseley and most of the officers in camp accompanied the column for a short distance. Then adieus and good wishes were exchanged until all should meet again—the headquarters and the officers of the mounted corps at Gakdul in about a fortnight, the others at Metemneh, maybe two months hence. Short as had been the distance travelled from camp, it had been long enough to show that some at least of the camels had been badly loaded; for already several were falling out of line, in order to have their burdens repacked. Ten days is the time named for the return of General Stewart with the unloaded camels; but he intends to make an effort to be back two days earlier."

The special correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* telegraphing from Korti on Dec. 21, says:—

"Colonel Barrow, who went out with his Hussars (19th) on Tuesday morning, in order to anticipate the departure of Sir Herbert Stewart's force, and to make tea for the men in the desert, returned here early this (Wednesday) morning. As I have already informed you, the Hussars, under the direction of their guide, took a disused track, a different one from that of Sir Herbert Stewart's column, and in consequence failed to meet it. This proved a great disappointment to the cavalry, who had prepared an excellent tea to give their comrades at parting. In order to intercept the advancing force, the Hussars extended themselves for several miles across the expected line of march, without, however, so much as hearing the sound of a bugle. The awful silence of the desert was unbroken. Ultimately patrols were sent out east and west, and at nine o'clock in the evening one of these distinguished the sound of a bugle. Riding eastwards, the direction in which the sound proceeded, for about seven miles from the cavalry's camping ground, they came upon the column, and delivered a letter from Colonel Barrow for Brigadier-General Stewart. The officer reports that at that moment the Camel Corps was halted, in order to permit the rearrangement of the loads of some of the baggage animals. Sir Herbert sent a message in return that everything was going on well, and shortly afterwards he and his men resumed their march. He was then fifteen miles from Korti.

"The officer reports that when moving over the desert track the column makes very little noise, but at halting and starting the grunting and groaning of the 2,000 camels was like the rumbling of thunder. Having communicated his news to Colonel Barrow, orders were given to return to the camp, the tea was poured on the desert, and at eleven o'clock the Hussars commenced their ride back, and reached here at two this morning."

The nature of the country along which the expeditionary force will have to march between Korti and Shendy is thus described in the *Morning Post*:—

"As far as Gakdul the road passes through rough, hilly country formed by the spurs of rock and irregular shoulders of ground, in which the mountain ranges of the northern side terminate as they reach the plains that are the beginning of the Great Desert, running south. The supply of water is not supposed to be sufficient for many camels at Hambok or El Howeiyat. Abu Halfa, ninety miles from Ambukol, is, therefore, the first station at which water sufficient for a considerable force may be expected. Then comes Gakdul, ten miles further, with El Faar to the east, and after that Abuklea, fifty-two miles beyond. Consequently, Abu Halfa, Gakdul, and Abuklea, the latter withim twenty-four miles of the Nile, are the principal, and probably the only, serviceable waterposts on this route. Except at Gakdul, where the water is enclosed in basins of deep rock, the native system of watering animals is to make basins of puddled mud beside the wells and to fill these basins with buckets. The animals then drink from the basins. The wells, as a rule, are not revetted or protected as to their sides or brims in any way, and in the rainy season floods of water wash over the brims, destroy the sides, and more or less fill the wells with earth and sand, and render them useless. The natives repair the damage just in so much as it affects them, and no more. The condition of the wells, therefore, especially at this season, not long after the rains, is not to be calculated upon."

While the main advance is thus being made direct towards Shendy, General Earle is to take the South Staffordshire Regiment, with some cavalry, up the river to Handab, a point above the Fourth Cataract, from which he will take measures to punish the murderers of Colonel Stewart and Mr. Power. The tribe being punished for its treachery, General Earle is to proceed up the river to Abou Hamed, which is the nearest point of that section of the river to Korosko. When there, he is to open up the road back across the desert to Korosko, where a regiment is stationed, and whence it is said stores are to be forwarded. Respecting this part of Lord Wolseley's operations, the special correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* sends the fullest information. He says:—

"Major-General Earle and his party will, if possible, give battle to the Monassirs, the tribe most deeply implicated in the massacre of Colonel Stewart and his party. This task satisfactorily accomplished, General Earle will press forward by boat about 100 miles further to Abu Hamed. Here he will once more encamp, and will endeavour to open up communications across the desert to Korosko, which is, of course, one of our bases of operations. The duration of the stay at Abu Hamed will depend to a considerable extent upon circumstances; but it is not expected to be prolonged, and the infantry will probably proceed by river to Berber, about 120 miles. The worst physical difficulties with which the infantry will have to wrestle will be encountered on the first part of the journey; for between Hamdab and Abu Hamed there are, in addition to obstacles unmarked on the official charts, the cataracts of Tejai, Bahak, Edernah, Kabenat, Tuari, and Om Deras. The last of these is only between sixty and seventy miles from Hamdab, and, once overcome, the remainder of the journey to Abu Ahmed will be comparatively easy. But the whole of the work will be of an extremely laborious character, as the boats can reckon upon little assistance from the wind until Abu Ahmed is reached.

"It has been reported at headquarters that the murderers of Colonel Stewart and Mr. Power are still at Berti, thirty-four miles above Handab. There are only 600 rebels at Berti, and it is thought the whole may be captured, when a little wholesome severity may save much bloodshed and destruction of property."

In a letter despatched from Dongola on the 11th of December, the correspondent of the *Daily News* mentions how the soldiers were growing more cheery and hopeful as the prospects of fighting brightened :—

"When the Mounted Infantry left Wada Halfa five or six weeks ago they brought on at least a dozen men who ought to have been in hospital, but who would not confess to any sickness for fear of being left behind. Three or four succumbed after a week's march, being able to hold out no longer against the fatigue of camel-riding and the effects of the tropical heat in their weak condition, but even then they pleaded to be taken on. Similarly when the Sussex regiment was ordered forward a few days ago Colonel Vandeleur's great difficulty was to find eighty men willing to remain on guard duty at the Dongola depôt. Anxious to have as strong a battalion as possible, he resolved that the sick and weakly should be left behind. Directly that resolve became known men ceased to report themselves to the doctor for treatment of any ailment, lest they should be among the number weeded out; and except those actually down in hospital none could be discovered who would admit that there was anything the matter with them, and so the detachment for depôt duty had to be told off by a process of natural selection from several companies. Naturally, exuberant enthusiasm was not very marked during the earlier stages of the campaign, when everybody was wearily waiting for the tardy issue of unknown events, and nobody felt quite sure whether there would be an expedition to Khartoum after all; but the announcement that Lord Wolseley will move forward in a few days to Ambukol, or rather to Korti, where all his force will be concentrated as speedily as possible, has roused all ranks to a state of eagerness for the fray, or at any rate to a desire for speedy and energetic action."

The special correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, writing on Nov. 22, says :—"Dal is at the head of the stretch of broken water that blocks the river all the way down to Wady Halfa. A large station has been established there and a telegraph office opened, so as to assist in working the cataracts. The office is necessarily on the west bank of the river, as the line runs on that side, and is five miles from the station, which is placed above Dal Cataract. The mounted forces and the provision convoys on their way up country do not touch at Dal, as it is in a bend and is off the route. Lord Wolseley on his journey back also went past it without stopping. My object, however, being partly to see the depôts and the progress that was being made by the whale-boats, I turned aside for that purpose. Next day (Tuesday, Nov. 18) we moved slowly along the circuitous river bank to Tangur. None of the whale-boats had yet been seen by us, although we learned that six of these craft, in which were a company of Royal Engineers, had got beyond Dal on Nov. 17, and were as far as Ferkeh, six miles south of that station. These were the leading whale-boats of the expeditionary force, and although manned by men all more or less trained to row, their progress evidently had been disappointingly slow, not more than five miles a day. On the way to Tangur the white sails and low masts of the whale-boats soon became quite conspicuous. There was a moderate breeze, and with boat sails spread and their oar blades sparkling as they swung them back and forward, the whale-boats crept slowly past me. Their rate of progress against the strong current was distressingly like a snail's pace. They were not in anything like a cluster, but strung out for miles, every boat plainly doing its independent best. The first of the advance were ten boats containing men of the South Staffordshire Regiment. It was about 1.30 p.m., Nov. 18, when they got to Hammam Akasheh. Nearer Tangur, about forty boats hove in sight, also belonging to the South Staffordshire Regiment. The last four companies of the South Staffordshire Regiment, with which were the regimental headquarters, had left Ambigol on the morning of Nov. 15, and here they were on Nov. 18 hanging about within eight or ten miles of the place. We slept on the 18th near Tangur, and next day resumed our journey along the river. At Ambigol we halted four hours to see the boats being hauled through the "babs" and the operation of the men in towing them up to the cataract, which is rather an insignificant one at that station. We learned that altogether, prior to Nov. 19, fifty-six boats, containing the South Staffordshire Regiment—total, 766 men and twenty officers—had passed through, the six Engineers' boats, and beyond these Colonel Alleyne's six boats, no others. Need more be added to show the character and difficulties of the task the army has to face in this water expedition? Occasionally you may see the men walking along the banks dragging the heavily-laden whale-boats by tow-lines. Who that has towed in the reaches of the Thames above Teddington a light boat, with a merry party, knows what heartbreaking, hopeless work such means of progression seems. Try it for a day on indifferent commissariat, against a stronger stream, from rocky, rough banks, where you are either scrambling up or tumbling down, with an enervating climate, and the best will vote the whole affair is anything but a picnic. Practically, the whale-boats are out of the hunt, and, unless we don't mean to get to Khartoum before the end of February next, they will have to be given the go-by at Ambukol or Debbeh, and the cut across country to Shendy tried."

CAUTION.—WATER FILTRATION.—The public are cautioned, before purchasing Filters, to see that what they buy are really water purifiers, and not mere strainers, which latter, although rendering water bright, do not remove the organic and mineral impurities. Filters professing to remove lime effectually are fallacy, as no filter yet invented will do so permanently, and al filters in which sponge is introduced are on the old system, for using which with the idea of removing organic matter (that usually productive of disease) the public were cautioned against, as being of no avail, in the instructions to the local boards of health by order of the Privy Council; and this caution is the more necessary as these filters are constantly advertised as a new patent, whereas the ONLY PATENTED FILTERS, containing nothing but the purest animal charcoal, are those supplied by the LONDON AND GENERAL WATER-PURIFYING COMPANY (Limited), 157, Strand (four doors from Somerset House), W.C.—Read "Water: its Impurities and Purification." Price 6d.

IRELAND.

Lord Plunket was on Thursday installed in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, as Archbishop of Dublin, and subsequently was installed as Dean of the Cathedral. His predecessor, Archbishop Trench, was enthroned on New Year's Day, 1864. On Thursday there was a large attendance of the clergy, and the ceremony was performed before a crowded congregation. The new Archbishop was conducted by his chaplains from his seat within the communion rails to the chancel, where he was met by the members of the Chapter, and then led to the episcopal throne. The mandate of the Lord Primate authorising the enthronement was then read, and the act of enthronisation formally took place. The Archbishop was afterwards conducted to the Dean's stall and installed as Dean. The usual service was then proceeded with.

The Ven. Thomas Fitzgerald French, rector of Castleconnell and Archdeacon of Killaloe, died on Tuesday morning, at his residence Castleconnell, of a severe affection of the lungs. He held the living of Milltown Malbay for many years, and in 1863 he was appointed rector of Castleconnell. When the present Bishop of Killaloe was elected, the vacant archdeaconry was conferred upon Mr. French. The deceased was highly popular, not only among his own co-religionists, but with those who differed from him in his political and religious opinions.

After being installed on Thursday, the new Mayor of Limerick declared that if the Government attempted to levy the obnoxious police tax on the ratepayers, he should advise them to resist payment.

A series of tables, showing the extent in statute acres and the produce of the crops for the year 1884 in Ireland, has been issued. The total extent of land under crops was 4,872,744 acres, of which 1,962,487 consisted of meadow and clover, 1,348,444 of oats, 798,952 of potatoes, and the remainder of wheat, barley, bere, rye, beans, pease, turnips, wurtzel, beet, carrots, parsnips, cabbage, vetches, flax, and rape. The quantity of meadow and clover produced was 3,822,775 tons; potatoes, 3,040,352 tons; turnips, 3,507,924 tons; oats, 18,109,448 cwt.; wheat, 991,654 cwt.; barley, 2,675,789; and flax, 2,505,850.

At Dungannon on Monday the three men who were charged with having attacked two Orangemen, Lecky and Castelly, from Coalisland, on Christmas Eve, were brought up before Lord Ranfurly and Mr. Thomas Hamilton, R.M. Castelly and Lecky deposed to the attack, and the police gave evidence as to the arrests. The defence was an *alibi*. The Court, after hearing all the evidence, returned the prisoners for trial to the quarter sessions.

A man named Rohen was found in an unconscious condition in the roadway near Tralee on Monday morning. He had evidently been waylaid and so terribly beaten that he died shortly after being conveyed to Blennerville. He had in his possession a number of notices to quit, which it is presumed he was to have served on Monday. A man named Moriarty has been arrested on suspicion.

On Sunday night a farmer proceeding home from Galway was attacked by two men, brutally beaten, and so seriously injured that it is feared he cannot recover. Two arrests have been made.

A Nationalist demonstration was held at Belfast on Monday and passed off peacefully, although some dissensions had arisen between the local council and the Dublin League. The Rev. Mr. Greene, Catholic priest, presided, and addresses were delivered by Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., Mr. W. O'Brien, M.P., and Mr. Biggar, M.P. A series of resolutions was adopted to the effect that in Ireland there is no guarantee for liberty; while in other countries the chief guarantees are arms and free Parliaments, Ireland, the resolution affirmed, has been cheated of both, but is now resolved to recover them. The resolutions further insisted on radical changes in most laws, if they were to be binding on the conscience, and great reforms in the administration of all if men were to respect authority. The meeting renewed its expressions of entire confidence in the Irish Parliamentary party, congratulated Ireland on having so many men of bright intellect and brave hearts under the leadership of Mr. Parnell contending for their rights, and declared its fixed determination to support them to the utmost of its power. Property, it was declared, is the creation of law, and the land of Ireland had been parcelled out as perpetual pensions to the hirelings of English power in reward for acts of cruelty. The pensions, it was declared, must now be handed over to the cultivators, England to pay one-half in compensation to the pensioners. Ireland, the resolution affirmed, is in the midst of a political struggle respecting the redistribution of seats, and it was the duty of all who loved their country to exert their power to prevent foul play. The speakers referred in hopeful terms to the future of the Irish party.

The report upon local taxation in Ireland for the year 1883 has just been issued. The local taxation of the country for that year shows a net increase of £243,636, or 6·97 per cent., on the returns for the previous year. The total sum, £3,778,315, is very considerably above the receipts of any year since 1866, the year to which the comparative returns date back. The principal increases in the receipts of last year are in those under town authorities, the poor rates, the grand jury cess, and the receipts by harbour authorities. Included in these are the receipts from the archaic institution of a Court Leet, which—and it is the only one in operation in Ireland—is found in the manor of Killultagh. From the receipts of town authorities it appears that of the total, £1,061,823, £533,129, or 50·21 per cent., was from rates on real property; £248,133, or 23·37 per cent., was from borrowed money; £238,207, or 22·43 per cent., was from property and other sources; £41,881, or 3·94 per cent., was from tolls, dues and fees; and £474, or 0·05 per cent., was from grand jury presentments. From the tables in the report it appears that the total of the local taxation of Ireland is distributed in the following proportions:—Rates on real property £2,906,487, or 76·9 per cent.; tolls, fees, stamps, and dues, £465,989, or 12·3 per cent.; other receipts, £405,839, or 10·8 per cent. This shows an increase of £78,840 in the "rates on real property," an increase of £9,637 on "tolls, fees, stamps, and dues," and an increase of £155,159 in "other receipts," making a total increase of £243,636.

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL.

The Queen has been pleased to confer the honour of the Most Illustrious Order of St. Patrick upon Lord Monteagle and Lord Annaly.

Her Majesty has also been pleased to confer the honour of a Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath upon Lord Aberdare.

Mr. E. Corbett, British Minister at Rio, has been appointed to succeed Sir Horace Rumbold as Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Stockholm. The Hon. E. Monson, C.B., now British Minister at Buenos Ayres, will succeed Mr. Vivian at Copenhagen as Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

The Board of Trade have intimated to the promoters of the Channel Tunnel that if the Bill which has been recently deposited by them in the Private Bill-office is persevered with, it will be the duty of the Government to oppose it in Parliament.

The outlines of the scheme drawn up by the Boundary Commissioners for the division of Kent and Surrey into county constituencies have been officially published. West Kent will be divided into the Dartford division, with a population of 64,321, and Sevenoaks division with 60,333. In Mid-Kent, Malling, 65,377, and Tunbridge, 59,018; East Kent, Ashford, 66,791; Faversham, 66,430; St. Augustine's, 64,377; and Isle of Thanet, 53,667. The population of Thanet division will be mainly urban, but in the Ashford district the rural element will largely predominate. The agricultural voters will be very numerous in St. Augustine's division. For Surrey the proposed divisions are: Woking, 54,297: Guildford, 54,619; Reigate, 56,348; Epsom, 56,991; Kingston-on-Thames, 69,048; and Wimbledon, 50,416. Each of the above divisions, it will be recollected, is to have one member.

Acknowledging the receipt of resolutions passed by the "apprentice boys" and citizens of Londonderry protesting against the obliteration of the rights of the loyal minority in Ireland under the Redistribution scheme, the Marquis of Salisbury says the position of the minority will depend very much on the manner in which the Boundary Commissioners appointed by the Lord Lieutenant perform their task. Sir Stafford Northcote feels assured that the hearty loyal spirit which animates the people of Derry will have its influence in these troublous and anxious times.

Mr. C. H. Hopwood, M.P., has undertaken, at the request of a large number of Nonconformists, to introduce a Bill immediately on the reassembling of Parliament to authorise the option of a solemn affirmation or declaration in all cases and under all circumstances where an oath now is, or may be hereinafter, lawfully authorised or required. This Bill will, therefore, deal not merely with the Parliamentary oath, but in all cases in which an oath is now held to be necessary.

The revenue return issned on Wednesday night shows that during the past quarter the receipts amounted to £21,118,471, being a net decrease of £304,703, as compared with the same quarter of 1883. The principal decreases are in Excise £200,000, interest on advances £102,675 and miscellaneous receipts £455,028; while the departments which show an increase are Customs £93,000, stamps £230,000, and Post Office £100,000. During the nine months of the current financial year there has been a net decrease of £1,695,301.

Mr. J. K. CROSS, Under-Secretary for India, addressed a Liberal meeting at St. Bees, near Whitehaven, on Monday night, on the occasion of the opening of a new Liberal hall. He said the question now was how would the two millions of new electors use the power with which they had been entrusted. He had no doubt that on the earliest possible occasion they would give notice to the House of Commons that the business of the nation must be conducted on different lines to what it had been during the past five years, or else they would change their representatives. He did not believe the new electorate would be trifled with, and that they would not submit to the obstruction practised in the last four or five years. He believed the methods used would be more rapid and possibly more rough, and that the extended electorate would put a stop to the cruelties of obstruction. If any Parliamentary deadlock should occur it would be the fault of those who sent members to Parliament. Referring to the question of redistribution, he said that, taking into consideration the electorate as a whole, there was no doubt that the Government, in acceding to the proposal of single-member constituencies, considered how the fairest amount of representation could be obtained from areas of 50,000 to 70,000 people spread over a very wide district of country. The colonies had intimated to the Government of this country that they would rather seek federation than disintegration, and no doubt federation would be one of the greatest blessings to the Empire; but such a proposal must necessarily come from the colonies themselves rather than from the mother-country. Referring to India, he remarked that the principle which Lord Ripon had acted upon had been the principle enunciated by the Queen shortly after the Mutiny, and that was the principle on which Lord Dufferin would act; for on no other could India be governed.

Mr. W. S. CAINE, M.P., was entertained at dinner by the Liverpool Junior Reform Club on Monday night, in celebration of his appointment as Civil Lord of the Admiralty. In reply to the toast of "Her Majesty's Government," Mr. Caine referred to the passing of the Franchise Bill, which he said was a bloodless victory, notwithstanding all the troubled waters and the signs of war that had preceded; it was a victory for Liberal principles. A great deal had been said about the compromise on the redistribution question and the enfranchisement of the unenfranchised people of this country; but every body was pleased—even the House of Lords. No doubt the Tory party came out of the contest with flying colours; but the Liberal party did not grudge them this, seeing that they had secured a great Liberal reform and almost everything they could have wished. The present system of registration, he said, was a disgrace to the country. Both parties were committed to the principles of redistribution; but the details were still open to discussion. Speaking of the House of Lords, he said he was always opposed to an Upper House; he would have a single House, comprised of the best men, and have Grand Committees. Social questions should occupy the attention of future Parliaments.

The annual gathering of the Oxford Druids took place on Thursday evening. The Earl of JERSEY, in responding to the toast of "The Houses of Parliament," said in the year just passed away there had been occasions when the mention of the House of Lords had not met with a very cheerful reception. It had come in for rather more than its fair share of strong language, and its very existence had been denounced. Threatened men live long, and the end of the House might not be so close at hand as some wished. They heard a great deal at one time of "mending" or "ending" the House of Lords. Well, he owned that he was not of a destructive turn of mind. It was quite possible that some reforms, or rather improvements, might be advantageously effected which would give increased usefulness to the House of Lords and add to its dignity in the eyes of the country. There were those he knew who wanted to abolish the House of Lords and to trust everything to one single representative House. He did not agree with that view. He believed a Second Chamber, exercising its powers with caution, to be of great importance in any well-organised Constitution, and it must not be dependent on the will of the Minister of the day. He hoped that, strengthened in its position and supported by the judgment of the people, the House of Lords would long continue to discharge its duties carefully, honourably, and for the benefit of their common country. The new year did not open with a bright look-out for England. Whichever way they turned the horizon was darkened with clouds. The Great Powers of Europe were badgering us in Egypt; Russia's action in Afghanistan was wrapped in mystery, while recent events in South Africa and New Guinea had awakened uneasy feelings as to the vigour and prescience of our policy. With regard to Egypt he was no advocate of "scuttle," because he was sure that the handing over of Egypt to be plucked by other countries and to be a stumbling-block in our own way to India would be a crime against the Egyptians and it would be treason against the rights and interests of England. A firm and consistent policy would dispel many doubts and difficulties. Instead of "scuttle" he would say "secure" what they had. Turning to the colonies, what could be more important to the welfare of the Empire than that there should exist a bond of union and of interest between the mother country and her colonies, and yet twice lately our Colonial Office had appeared before the public in a very humiliating position. Dilatory in South Africa, incapable in New Guinea—in fact, its policy might be summed up in its own words, "no idea." Their great object should be to draw into a closer bond the English-speaking peoples, and it behoved them to think whether they could not offer such commercial and other advantages to our colonies as would operate alike to their benefit and our own. It was worth while for our statesmen to consider whether such an arrangement might not be made as would cause the mass of our supplies to be drawn from Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, and at the same time provide for our toilers at home an unshackled market in those vast territories.

Lord R. GROSVENOR, M.P., addressing a county meeting of Liberals at Dorchester on Tuesday, said the Franchise Bill was the greatest revolution of the present age, and that very few of his hearers could form any notion of the great difficulties which Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues had to encounter in order to carry the measure to a successful issue. He pointed out the great importance of individual action, and also of party union on the part of the Liberals of Dorset in order that they might return four Liberal members to Parliament. He said the question of Fair Trade had been fairly met and answered by previous speakers, but he wanted to bring before them another argument—namely, that of figures. He then quoted from statistics drawn up by Mr. Giffen for the Board of Trade showing that from the year 1880 to 1883 the amount invested in the Post Office savings banks by the working classes of this country had increased from less than £34,000,000 to £43,500,000; this was a most extraordinary increase of nearly £10,000,000 in the short space of three years, and during that time of course Free Trade had been in force in this country. He also quoted figures showing that in other savings banks there had been a considerable increase in the deposits, so that working men must have prospered more or less to have made that enormous increase in their savings. He believed that a good deal of savings had been taken for the tax which a good many working men had been but too willing to pay, and that was the tax on spirits, which did them no good, but harm, and ruined them and their families as well. Adverting to Liberal legislation in the present Parliament, he said the Liberals were not ashamed of their work during the last five years, and as far as his own work was concerned it had been pretty lively, and he had found it no sinecure. He often wished the Factory Act was in operation in the House of Commons, for 70 hours a week was nothing for them to work. He hoped, however, that those days were gone. He was quite convinced that one of the first duties of the new House of Commons would be to amend the rules of that House. Those rules were made in other times, and like everything else had got a little old; and either the men had got too big for the rules or the rules too small for the men. They had now a very different class of members to deal with to those who were members when the rules were made. They had enormous difficulties with the Irish members, who did not act in a way conducive to the interests either of this country or their own. He knew that Englishmen and Irishmen would confess that Mr. Gladstone and his Government had done their utmost to meet the Irish in every point of view. They had gone almost further than they ought to have done, looking at the rules of political economy. And enormous sacrifices had been made in order to set that unfortunate part of Great Briton at peace. The measures the Government had carried had more or less succeeded; but he was bound to say the conduct of the Irish party in the House of Commons had not been all that could be desired, and it was absolutely necessary that rules should be put in force which should prevent business being entirely stopped by a small clique of nine or ten members. The new House of Commons, which would no doubt be composed of men of energy and determination, would not put up with this state of

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things, and, if the House itself could not find means of effecting this reform, the country would find men who would do so. He expressed the opinion that in future members of Parliament would be brought more closely into communication with their constituents. The present Parliament would have quite enough to do with the Redistribution Bill and the renewal of the Crimes Bill for Ireland, and he believed the reform of the rules of the House would be one of the questions which would be left for the new Parliament to cope with. The tendency of legislation during the present Government had been to assist and liberate the working classes in the matter of polling, and to give to those who had votes more freedom for the exercise of their rights. He next referred to the stringency of the provisions of the Corrupt Practices Act, and pointed out that in future canvassing and other necessary election work must be done voluntarily, and that the greatest care must be taken in order that the return of a candidate might not be vitiated. He believed that the question of the franchise having been disposed of, the next House of Commons would be able to devote its time more fully and freely to domestic legislation, which had fallen into arrear, and that one of the most important duties it would have to perform would be to pass a County Boards Bill. That would go a long way to meet the views of those gentlemen who were in favour of local option, because that was a subject which would probably be included in the County Government Bill. He concluded by congratulating them upon their earnest spirit of Liberalism, which he was certain must lead to victory in the end.

Lord Dunraven, writing to the *Times* with reference to Mr. Bright's assertion—"Lord Dunraven's statements (in his letter to Mr. M'Alister) are mostly unsupported by facts. He quotes from a speech of mine at a Cobden Club dinner. I have never attended a Cobden Club dinner; so much for his accuracy"—says:—

"Mr. Bright is careful not to question the accuracy of my quotation directly, but he does so by implication. Mr. Bright's words, as taken from the report in the *Times* of the 26th of July, 1877, were:—'If we look to France we see that Protection is becoming weaker. If we look at the United States, or consult any intelligent American that comes to this country, we shall find that there it is shaking and tottering to its fall;' and he spoke those words at a luncheon at the Cobden celebration in Bradford on the 25th of July, 1877. If, in discussing a question of such vast importance to the nation as the merits of our commercial system, Mr. Bright endeavours to throw doubt upon the substantial accuracy of an opponent by making use of such a mere quibble as the fact that a speech was delivered after luncheon at a Cobden celebration, and not after dinner at the Cobden Club, I am content to leave it to the judgment of the public to decide whether I should be justified in returning to him the compliment he pays to the Workmen's Association by saying that it 'is fair dealing so far.'"

Mr. C. J. Kennard has replied to the letter written by Mr. Bright on Protection. He says that Mr. Bright has suddenly, and on very slight provocation, rushed into Wiltshire and gored the landlords, raising the cry of "No rents" at a time when every landlord in the county is making considerable concessions in this regard. It will be readily seen by every artisan that if the cost of production of corn is to be reduced by the elimination of the item rent, and thereby a better fight made against the foreign competitor, and higher wages secured at the same time, the same process should be applied to the production of fabrics. "Handsome is that handsome does;" so let Mr. Bright hand over his mill to a co-operative band of artisans rent free, and then come into Wiltshire with clean hands and a conscience purged by fire. Dealing with the question of Free Trade, Mr. Kennard asks why we find our Mundellas at Chemnitz, in Germany, and our Isaac Holdens at Roubaix, in France, if England is so advantageously situated among protecting communities as it is asserted by Mr. Bright and others that she is. These capitalists who desert our free-trading shores are (says Mr. Kennard) shrewd people and know what they are about; and they subscribe large sums of money to the Cobden Club exchequer with their tongues in their cheeks, knowing that the Free Trade craze must be kept going long enough to allow of their disengaging their dead capital (mills, machinery, etc.) from the confusion which would ensue upon the imposition of a duty on the goods they are supplying us from abroad at a ruinous cost to English working men.

The following is the reply of the Chairman of the International Arbitration and Peace Association to the letter of Mr. Wilfrid Blunt, which was the prelude to the letter received by Mr. Gladstone from the Vice-Chairman of the Association respecting Mr. Blunt's offer to act as mediator between the Mahdi and Her Majesty's Government:—"*Paris, December* 23, 1884.—My dear Sir,—You will have been informed that I left London on Wednesday last, and consequently I did not see your letter till Sunday last. This will explain why I have not acknowledged your most important communication. I cannot feel certain as to the course which my colleagues may have considered it best to adopt; but I feel sure that they, in common with all Englishmen who apply the principles of true and high morality to international duties (which are as sacred as those between individuals) must feel the immense gravity of the duty which your letter imposes on England. No public men and no citizens have a right to disregard such an offer of intervention and of mediation, which contains at least the possibility of success. Our highest duty is to avail ourselves of every possible means of saving bloodshed, if it can be avoided, with due regard to the law of self-preservation and the rights of other races and nations. Every instance of successful intervention and mediation in such cases makes it a thousand times easier to apply the principle when the next occasion comes. To obtain such precedents it is worth while to make the greatest sacrifices, and I am sure that it is this sentiment that has given you the courage and perseverance necessary to make such proposals as these in the face of widespread prejudices and distrust. The mere proposal educates and raises the public conscience.—With profound esteem, I am yours truly,

"HODGSON PRATT.

"Wilfrid Scawen Blunt, Esq."

The death is announced of M. E. B. Hartopp, formerly Conservative member for North Leicestershire.

Mr. Bradlaugh has issued an address to the electors who may vote on the 1st of January, 1886, quoting the words of Mr. Justice Stephen, that his only appeal was to the constituencies, and to them he accordingly appealed for aid in his effort to secure his right to sit in the House of Commons and vote as one of the representatives of Northampton.

CAUCUS TACTICS.

We quote the following article by Mr. W. T. Marriott, M.P., from the Christmas Supplement to *England*:—

"If, as many seem to think, the establishment of one-membered constituencies in our large towns tends to diminish the power of that political association which is now known by the name of the Caucus, the gain to political honesty will be very considerable. Societies, associations, and clubs for the purpose of disseminating knowledge upon public affairs of interest, foreign and colonial as well as domestic, and for bringing together men of similar political life in this country—the essence of their utility is that they should be purely local, and they should be strong enough to oppose that tendency to centralisation which in too many cases has been the bane of democratics. The franchise may be based on household or universal suffrage; but if the electors are directed not by local associations in their own neighbourhood, but by some central associations, proud as they may be of their rights, the electors are but mere puppets. The only people who derive any benefit from the political machine are those who, for their own purpose, work it at headquarters.

"The Liberal Association of Birmingham has, from its commencement, been very ambitious, and not content with simply minding the affairs of its own household, has ever been endeavouring to influence and direct the political action of constituencies in all parts of the kingdom. This of itself has been an evil, but the evil has been greatly enhanced by the discreditable means it has constantly had recourse to for the purpose of gaining its ends. It is well known that in America similar institutions have done incalcuable mischief, and have made political life the sport, in the words of an American writer, of 'thieves, bullies, rowdies, gamblers, and miscellaneous vagabonds.' It was alleged by the supporters of the English caucus that so great was the superiority of English political nature to that of our kinsmen beyond the Atlantic that no such evils were then dreaded here. Writing seven years ago in the *Fortnightly Review*, Mr. Chamberlain, the leader of the Caucus, told us 'that it was certain up to the present time there was no sign here of the particular evils on which the objectors to the American Caucus lay so much stress. The Birmingham Liberal Association has been in full operation for ten years, and it is admitted that no suspicion has ever been breathed against the public honour and integrity of any of the party leaders.' What was said in 1877 certainly cannot be repeated with truth in 1884. For the first ten years of its existence the Association did not attract attention outside Birmingham itself, and it was not until it first originated and then allied itself with the so-called National Federation that its doings became an object of public interest. Its record since then is certainly not one of which any honourable man need be proud.

"In 1880 it interfered in sixty-seven borough and ten county elections. The work of interference was such that in two boroughs when after the elections there were election petitions—viz., in Oxford and Evesham—the judges condemned in very severe language the action of the association agents. The illegal expenditure of money and the employment of Birmingham detectives to watch Conservatives, was brought directly home to these avowed supporters of the Corrupt Practices Act. At the beginning of the present year its emissaries attempted to interfere with the election at Brighton. Their mode of interference was characteristic. These supporters of popular rights did their best to prevent the people having political meetings. The first meeting of the Conservatives was simply broken up by a gang of Birmingham roughs. An attempt was made to break up the second meeting, but the roughs were pointed out by a Birmingham man who knew them, and were promptly ejected. Once defeated, they did not renew the attack. As soon as an account of the matter appeared in the London and provincial papers, Mr. Schnadhorst telegraphed to Brighton to deny that the roughs came from Birmingham. He based his denial on what he alleged as a fact, that no return tickets had been issued from Birmingham to Brighton for a month. As a matter of fact, it turned out that the halves of six third-class return tickets from Birmingham were taken at Preston—a station a mile from Brighton—on the very afternoon that the first meeting was broken up; and one of the roughs who was turned out of the second meeting dropped the half of his return ticket in the scuffle. In addition to that, of those evicted, only one came forward to show that he was a Brighton man, and that an error had been made. It is true a mistake was made about Mr. Nuttall, the hero of Evesham and Oxford. He himself was not there, as was at first supposed, but the agents of the association of a town near Birmingham were present, and this probably gave rise to the mistake.

"But the actions of the Association at Oxford, Evesham, and Brighton are mild compared to their doings with regard to Aston Park. The disgraceful manner in which the Conservative meeting was broken up is well known. Considering the past history of the Caucus, it was not surprising that it should be suspected of being implicated in the matter. How far it really was implicated is not yet known, but what must strike all honest men with astonishment and disgust is the mode it has adopted of defending itself. It is quite clear from the disclosures in the Birmingham Police Court that ignorant men were paid to swear to facts which, if true, might give one of Her Majesty's Ministers specious grounds of defence against the accusations brought against him. In a brief moment these false affidavits gave the Minister an apparent triumph; but at what a cost was it purchased? It cannot be a comfortable reflection to Mr. Chamberlain to think that, had it not been that the documents he cited were used in the House of Commons, he himself would have been placed in the dock with Reed on a criminal charge. As it is, it is only the poor ignorant dupes who took the money that can be prosecuted, while he for whose benefit the false documents were prepared is sheltered under the privilege of Parliament.

"It may be true that when the documents were read out to an astonished House Mr. Chamberlain himself did not know exactly how they had been obtained; but he knew that they were procured by agents of the Birmingham Liberal Association, and the connection of the agents of this Association with the questionable proceedings at Oxford, Evesham, and Brighton should have made him doubly careful to inquire into their authenticity before he used them. Moreover, he has never since said the least in disavowal of the actions of those agents. This is really the most discreditable part of the whole matter. The President of the Board of Trade is not now, according to his own statement, *officially*, but he is *politically*, connected with the Caucus. If the agents of the Caucus do disgraceful acts, why does he not expose them? The only reason why he does not which can suggest itself to outsiders is that his connection with these agents is so close and confidential that he dare not. This suggestion is confirmed by some of the recent disclosures in the police-court. First, Mr. Chamberlain acknowledged that Mr. Schnadhorst was his political agent. He is also the soul and spirit of the Caucus, and it is well known that Mr. Schnadhorst depends entirely for subsistence upon what he makes out of politics. Naturally he is absolutely in the power of Mr. Chamberlain, and whatever influence the agent may have in the Caucus is naturally used for his employer's benefit. If the employer gets the benefit he cannot escape the responsibility. Secondly, the excessive alarm displayed by the Association cannot in the recent trial, at the disclosure of the correspondence between Mr. Chamberlain and the agent of the Association, strongly support the same view. The very suggestion that Mr. Chamberlain's letters should be produced threw the able counsel who was retained to defend his interests into a fit of hysterics; and it is impossible not to conclude that the letters must have contained something very damaging to Mr. Chamberlain's character as a public man. To clear himself he should publish the letters, denounce in befitting terms the disgraceful action of the Caucus agents, and himself bear his proportion of it. However justifiable he might have been in holding the opinion he did in 1873, he cannot possibly hold that opinion in 1884. The weak anticipations of those who objected to the founding of the Association have been more than justified. The Caucus has done much to degrade and demoralise political life in the country. It is sincerely to be hoped that the new Reform Bill will minimise its power, and that responsible Ministers will, in every possible way, discountenance it.

LORD RIPON ON AFGHAN AFFAIRS

The *Bombay Gazette* contains a long account of the presentation to Lord Ripon of an address from the Municipality of Benares, in the Municipal Hall of that place. The Municipality said that Lord Ripon would leave the people of India happier, more content, and more loyal than he had found them, and the sovereignty of the Queen more firmly established in the hearts of the people. Lord Ripon, in the course of his reply, said:—I have not only to thank you for the address which you have presented, but also for the very cordial reception which you were good enough to accord to me yesterday. The recollection of the sight which I then witnessed, as I passed down the river along your ghats, will never fade from my mind, whether on account of the beauty of the scenes presented or on account of the heartiness with which I was welcomed. Gentlemen, your recognition of the value of the principal measures of my Government is gratifying to me. You say in your address, speaking of the first words which I uttered on landing in India, "You would not then be persuaded to give us any idea of what we were to expect from your administration." No, gentlemen, I would not do so then, and for this plain reason, that I did not come out to this country with any preconceived measures which I was determined to carry into effect. I came out here desirous only to act in the spirit in which I was sent to India by our gracious Sovereign—to promote to the utmost of my power the well-being and the prosperity of our Indian subjects, and to apply to every question as it arose those great principles which are embodied in Her Majesty's proclamation, and which have been laid down for the guidance of the rulers of the country by Parliament and by successive Administrations. You allude in your address to various topics connected with the course of the administration of India during the last four and a half years. I will not follow you through that list, because I should only be repeating what I have already said during the last fortnight. I will therefore say but little upon the important matter to which you first allude—naturally the most interesting to you in this city—the question of local self-government. I have had occasion to point out the substantial progress which has been made in that matter under the rule of my hon. friend Sir Alfred Lyall in the North-Western Provinces. I will only remark that here, in Benares, under the arrangements recently introduced, if I am rightly informed your municipality is almost entirely elective, and that that throws upon you, the chosen representatives of your fellow-citizens, a large amount of responsibility. I have great confidence that you will discharge your duties fittingly, and that by so doing you will give strength to the policy adopted by the Government in regard to municipal institutions in India. But, gentlemen, as I am now approaching the frontier of the province of Bengal, I may perhaps be permitted for a moment to draw attention to the substantial results which have been obtained in that province in respect to those institutions. Three years ago, outside Calcutta, there were, out of 185 municipalities in Bengal, only three in which the elective system had been in any degree introduced. It has now been introduced by law into 170 of those municipalities, and elections are going on at this moment, I believe, in the cities and towns of Bengal, of which I trust we shall learn in a few days that the results have been satisfactory. That, gentlemen, constitutes a real and important advance in this matter. It seems to me that, with regard to this question, I have done my part; what has been attained cannot be lost; it rests with you to show whether a further advance in this direction can hereafter be safely and wisely made. It is a great gratification to me to observe from your address how fully you acknowledge the eminent qualifications of my friend Lord Dufferin for the appointment which Her Majesty's Government has just conferred upon him. His experience, as you truly say, specially fits him for dealing with the difficult problems connected with our relations with Russia and with Central Asian politics, and I trust that, by firmness, patience, and moderation, he will be enabled to bring those problems to a solution satisfactory alike to both the great countries concerned. I am happy to say that the relations of the British Government with the Ameer of Afghanistan were never more friendly than they are at the present moment. If you wanted a proof of that you would find it in the fact that the Indian portion of the Afghan Boundary Commission has just passed through the territories of his Highness the Ameer, has arrived at Herat and entered that famous city, being received there with the utmost cordiality, and has now proceeded onwards to meet the chief British Commissioner, Sir Peter Lumsden. Gentlemen, I look upon this, I confess, as a great success, for which we are largely indebted to the friendliness of the Ameer of Afghanistan; but it has been attained not only through his Highness's friendly action, but also by the great skill with which the difficulties of this undertaking have been dealt with and surmounted by Colonel Ridgeway and the other officers of the British Government who have been sent from India in connection with that mission; and I am very glad indeed to have this public opportunity of acknowledging the services of those officers, and of tendering to them the thanks of the Government of India. Gentlemen, you are right in saying that in the material and moral prosperity of this country lies the surest guarantee of the stability of the Government. It has been my effort to secure that stability by promoting to the utmost of my power that material and moral prosperity, and if it be true, as you assure me, that the sovereignty of our beloved Empress is now more firmly established in the hearts of the people than it was when I first came to this country, then I have accomplished the end for which I was sent to India, and I have obtained my highest desire. Gentlemen, the memory of this beautiful city, and of the kindness which you have shown to me to-day, will not fade, except with my life, from my recollection. I heartily thank you for it, and I most sincerely wish you farewell."

THE GERMAN ANNEXATIONS IN THE PACIFIC.

A memorandum has been addressed to the Governor of Victoria by the Hon. James Service, the Premier, on the subject of the German annexations in the Western Pacific. In this document, which bears date December 20, Mr. Service says:—"The reported hoisting of the German flag not only in the Western Pacific, but also on the northern side of New Guinea, has already created consternation in this community. The surprise felt at this act is based, firstly, on the resolution of the Sydney Convention, declaring that further foreign territorial acquisitions in the Western Pacific would be highly detrimental to the safety and well-being of Australasia; secondly, on the assurances contained in the despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated May 9, in which confidence was expressed that no foreign Power contemplated any interference in New Guinea; and thirdly, on the negative reply given by Mr. Evelyn Ashley in the House of Commons on October 24 regarding the reported understanding with Germany. Moreover, Lord Derby, on July 2 of last year, announced in the House of Lords that any attempt on the part of a foreign Power to settle on the Coast of New Guinea would be regarded as an unfriendly act." Mr. Service consequently submits that the colonists were entitled to rest in perfect confidence that their interests in New Guinea would be secured by the Imperial Government. He supposes, therefore, that the reported hoisting of the German flag took place without the knowledge of the Imperial Government. "The surprise and indignation," he continues, "which will prevail if the report proves to be true will be intensified by the recollection that when the Colonists hoisted the British flag in New Guinea, the Imperial Government thought fit to repudiate and cancel the proceeding on the ground that the apprehension of foreign acquisition was indefinite and unfounded."

The memorandum proceeds thus to summarise the position:—"Australia was not allowed to act herself, and the Imperial Government will not act on her behalf. Meanwhile, Australia has to stand by and see territories, the possession of which she regards as essential to her safety and well-being, pass to another Power." Mr. Service goes on to say that, strongly cherishing as he does the connection between the colonies and the Empire, he cannot sufficiently express his disappointment at the want of response to the aspirations of the colonies displayed by the Imperial Government. It becomes necessary, however, to consider what is yet practicable. Lord Derby, in his despatch of July 1, 1883, stated that if there had been any evidence of an intention on the part of any foreign Power to take possession of a portion of New Guinea, the Colonial Government could have telegraphed their views and proposals, thereby enabling the Imperial Government to take prompt action in case of necessity in a few hours. Mr. Service then submits evidence in proof of the latest reports, and requests the Governor to telegraph the intelligence in question to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with the request that steps may be authorised by telegraph which may save to Australasia such of the neighbouring islands as are yet available. He further asks his Excellency to convey to the Colonial-office a vigorous protest on behalf of Victoria against an inaction which openly invites foreign Powers to come and take possession of lands in which none are so interested as the communities of Australasia.

The Premier of Victoria having invited the Government of New South Wales to join in a collective protest against the German annexation of a portion of New Guinea, Mr. Dally, acting Colonial Secretary, has replied in a long minute, declining on the part of the colony to unite at present in such a protest. This minute has been submitted to Lord Augustus Loftus, the Governor, for presentation to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and copies have been forwarded to the Prime Ministers of all the Colonial

Governments. The reasons given for declining to join in the protest are based on the absence of definite information:—Firstly, as to whether the recent action of Germany is the result of an arrangement with the Imperial Government; secondly, as to the terms of such agreement if it exists; thirdly, as to the possibility of extending the British protectorate over New Guinea so as to include the shores of the island from East Cape to the German line of occupation; and, fourthly, as to whether, as a counterpoise to the German occupation, England may not have determined to occupy all the islands which command, from a strategical point of view, the whole of that portion of the Pacific. For these reasons the Government of New South Wales declines to take any steps in questions of such gravity and complexity, seriously involving as they do the relations of the colonies with England and her relations with the European nations, without the fullest information. On the receipt of such information the colony will be prepared to co-operate cordially with the other colonies in taking such steps as may be considered necessary.

THE PROTECTORATE OF NEW GUINEA.

The special reporter of the *Adelaide Advertiser*, telegraphing from Cooktown on Nov. 14, gives the following interesting account of the ceremony of formally establishing a protectorate in New Guinea:—

"I have just returned to Cooktown after witnessing the ceremony of formally and authoritatively establishing a protectorate over New Guinea, which took place at Port Moresby on Thursday, Nov. 6, under the direction of Commodore Erskine. The Commodore was assisted by the officers and men of the British warships *Nelson*, *Espiegle*, *Raven*, and *Harrier*, and the ceremony took place in the presence of Mr. Romilly, Deputy Commissioner of the Western Pacific, and about forty or fifty native chiefs of New Guinea. The proclamation, read by Commodore Erskine, set forth that the British Protectorate was established over all that portion of the southern shores of New Guinea commencing from the boundary of that portion of the country claimed by the Government of the Netherlands, namely, on the 141st degree of east longitude to East Cape, with all the islands adjacent thereto south of East Cape, Kosman Island inclusive, together with the islands of the Goshen Straits. If anyone will take the trouble to look at the map of New Guinea, he will find that the protectorate leaves the western or larger half of the island to the westward of the 141st degree untouched, that being the boundary of the Dutch possessions. But the only portion of the eastern or unoccupied half of the island that is now protected by the British is the southern shore facing the north-eastern coast of Australia. The proclamation does not say how far inland the limits of the protectorate extend, but simply mentions the southern shores in an indefinite kind of way. This leaves the northern shores still unoccupied, and a man has only got to go inland a few miles till he gets away from the coast to enable him to escape British jurisdiction, because it will be a difficult matter for anybody to say how far inland British jurisdiction extends. It will also be seen from the proclamation that those astute persons who have been buying acres of land from the natives for a few sticks of tobacco, and have been preparing to establish a claim against the British Government whenever annexation took place, have had their plans upset. The proclamation distinctly sets out that no acquisition of land, whensoever or howsoever acquired, within the limits of the Protectorate will be recognised by Her Majesty.

"On Wednesday, the 5th, a kind of preliminary palaver, or gathering of the native chiefs, took place on board the *Nelson*, lying in the harbour at Port Moresby. There were fifty natives present, the majority of them being chiefs and leading members of the coast tribes at and near Port Moresby. A number of those had been brought to Port Moresby by H.M.S. *Espiegle* and H.M.S. *Raven*, the former making a trip for that purpose to a number of villages for a distance of about thirty or forty miles to the eastward, and the latter going about the same distance to the westward on a similar errand. These natives gathered on the quarter-deck of the *Nelson* early on the afternoon of the 5th, and after being regaled with mixed rice and sugar they were ranged along the deck and addressed by Commodore Erskine. The sight was a novel one. The natives sat, or rather squatted, two or three deep along the port side of the quarter-deck; the blue-jackets of the *Nelson*, attired in white uniform, were drawn up on the starboard side, while the *Nelson's* band occupied the band-stand overhead. Between these two groups stood the Commodore; accompanied by Commander Henderson, of the *Nelson*, Captain Bridge, of the *Espiegle*, and Mr. Romilly. Behind the natives stood the officers of the *Nelson* and the native teachers engaged at New Guinea, and in front near the Commodore were the Rev. G. W. Lawes and the Rev. J. Chalmers, two missionaries in connection with the London Missionary Society who have been stationed at New Guinea for the past eight or ten years. Suspended over this interesting assembly was a fine awning of flags of all nations, the whole making a very effective scene.

"The natives were then addressed by Commodore Erskine as follows:—'I have asked you to come on board to-day in order that I may explain to you about the ceremony which will take place to-morrow on shore. I have been sent to this place to notify and proclaim that Her Majesty the Queen has established a protectorate over the southern shores of New Guinea, and in token of that event I am directed to hoist the British flag at Port Moresby and at other places on the coast. I intend to-morrow to hoist the English flag here and read the proclamation, which will be duly translated to you, and copies of which I hope to be able to send you printed in your own language; and in the meantime an English copy will be given to each chief for the information of your people. I desire on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen to explain to you the meaning of the ceremonial which you are about to witness. It is a proclamation that from this time forth you are placed under the protection of Her Majesty's Government, and evil-disposed men will not be able to occupy your colony, seize your lands, or take you away from your own homes. I have been instructed to say to you that what you have seen done to-day on board Her Majesty's ship of war, and which will be done to-morrow again on shore, is to give you the strongest assurance of Her Majesty's gracious protection; and I am to warn bad and evil-disposed men that if they attempt to do you harm they will be promptly punished by the officers of the Queen. Your land will be secured to you; your wives and children will be protected; and if any injury be done to you you are to inform one of Her Majesty's officers, who will reside among you, and he will hear your complaints and do justice. You are to look upon all white persons whom the Queen permits to reside amongst you as your friends and Her Majesty's subjects. The Queen will permit nobody to reside here who does you injury. You are under no circumstances to inflict punishment on any white persons, and if any such person has done you wrong you will tell Her Majesty's officers at New Guinea, in order that the case may be fairly inquired into. You must know that it is for your security, and to prevent bloodshed, that the Queen sends me here to you, and will send her officers to live amongst you. Now, I hope that you clearly understand that we are here amongst you as your friends. You are to keep peace amongst yourselves, and if you have disputes with each other you will bring them at once before the Queen's officers, who will settle them for you without bloodshed. If bad men come among you bringing firearms and gunpowder and intoxicating liquors, you are not to buy them, but you are to give notice at once to the Queen's officers, that such men may be punished. Always keep in your mind that the Queen guards and protects—that she looks upon you as her children, and that she will not allow anyone to harm you, but will send her trusted officers to carry out her gracious intentions.'

"This address, which had been previously translated by Mr. Lawes, was then read by that gentleman in the native dialect, and was understood by most of the natives present.

"It had been decided to select one chief among all those present at the gathering to be a kind of representative of his brother chiefs, so as to be a means of communication between the Governor and the natives of the district. One such chief was also to be nominated in each of the principal districts, and to be presented with a kind of sceptre or symbol of his authority. This symbol was in the form of a black ebony stick, very much like a thick walking-stick, with a two-shilling piece sunk in the top of the handle, the Queen's head on the florin being uppermost. There was no inscription or date upon the stick. Boe Vagi, the chief of the Port Moresby tribe, was selected to be the recipient of this symbol of distinction.

"After a few lively strains from the band, and the presentation of a couple of tomahawks and coloured shirts to each of the chiefs, the proceedings terminated, and the natives were all taken ashore at Port Moresby. In the evening all the ships of war in the harbour were brilliantly illuminated, and the spectacle from the shore was one of the prettiest imaginable.

"The following morning the long-anticipated protectorate ceremony took place. The scene of the event was in the grounds of the Mission House at Port Moresby, occupied by Messrs. Lawes and Chalmers. At 6.30 in the morning the detachment of blue-jackets and marines landed from the various ships. When the men had landed from the boats at the head of the bay, they marched up the hill to the grounds surrounding the mission house, where they formed three sides of a square, the mission house forming the fourth side. The flagstaff was in the centre of the square. Accompanied by the officers of his staff, the Commodore, together with the principal officers, the missionaries, and the others, then took up a position on the verandah of the mission house facing the centre of the square, and at eight o'clock precisely the proceedings commenced. The only European lady present was Mrs. Lawes, the wife of the missionary, who was accommodated with a seat beside the Commodore. The wives of the native teachers from Raratonga were also present, and the native chiefs who were present at the previous day's ceremony on board the *Nelson* were seated in a double line on the ground in front of the verandah. The proceedings opened by the Commodore reading the proclamation. He then addressed the company as follows:—'Officers and men, Mr. Romilly, and gentlemen,—This interesting and important event being now formally concluded, it only remains for me in Her Majesty's name to express the fervent hope that under the blessing of Almighty God the establishment of the protectorate may conduce to the welfare and peace and happiness of the people of this territory; that the British flag which has this day been planted on their shores may be to them the symbol of their freedom and their liberty, and the proclamation which I have just read the charter of their rights and privileges; that it may to them be a protectorate in deed as well as in name, protecting them alike from the aggressions of evil persons, whether they be British subjects or foreigners, and that the blessings of civilisation and Christianity—the seed of which has been sown by English hands in the persons of good and valiant gentlemen, whom I am delighted to see present on this occasion—may increase and multiply exceedingly to their good. Lastly, that as the Union Jack, which has on several former occasions been hoisted on the shores of New Guinea, but which this day for the first time floats over this island under the authority and by the command of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, I most fervently hope that this important step may tend to insure the integrity and maintain the security of the Australian Colonies and promote the best interests of their people, and that this important event may thus redound to the honour of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria. I invite you now to give three cheers for the Queen.'

"Three hearty cheers were then given for the Queen, and the proceedings concluded. The officers and men at once returned to their ships, which in the meantime had been gaily decorated with bunting. The whole ceremony was splendidly conducted, not a single hitch or delay occurring to mar the success of the demonstration."

Two theological works are announced by Mr. T. Fisher Unwin for immediate publication—*Paying the Pastor: Unscriptural and Traditional*, by Mr. James Beaty, Member for Toronto in the Canadian Parliament; and *The Question of Questions: Is Christ Indeed the Saviour of the World*, by the Rev. Thomas Allin, of Weston-super-Mare.

LONGMANS.

The current number of the *British and Colonial Printer and Stationer* contains a pleasantly-written account of the origin and rise of that world-renowned publishing firm tersely known throughout the wide domain of English literature—whether of authors or readers—as Longmans. The article in question is, in brief, a record of enterprise and success during two centuries. It is asserted by old authors that the Great Fire of 1666 was the main cause of Paternoster-row eventually assuming the undisputed supremacy in matters literary which it has so long enjoyed. Prior to that historic outbreak, the principal booksellers carried on business (and, according to the custom of the age, resided) in St. Paul's-churchyard; and we have it on the authority of Pepys that the calamity represented to them a loss of £150,000 worth of books. Even at that period the ancestors of the Longmans had high position—not as booksellers and publishers, however, but as manufacturers of sugar and soap at Bristol, then the greatest English seaport after London, and second only to the metropolis in importance and wealth. Bristol since that time has been shorn of some of its ancient glory; but the Longmans, like other famous Bristol families, have thriven and flourished. Thomas Longman, the first bookseller of that name, was the eldest son, by a second marriage, of Ezekiel Longman, "a Bristol gentleman." Being left an orphan at nine years of age, a clause in his father's will provided that young Thomas was "to be well and handsomely bred, and educated according to his fortune." In his 17th year, on leaving school, he was bound apprentice to Mr. John Osborne, stationer and bookseller at the sign of the Oxford Arms, in Lombard-street, and at the conclusion of his seven years' indenture (which expired in June, 1723) he followed a good old City custom by marrying his master's daughter. How he ultimately became the owner of the business is told as follows:—"At the end of young Longman's apprenticeship, the house of William Taylor—the original publisher of *Robinson Crusoe*—had lost its chief, and Osborne was appointed executor for the family. The business was ultimately disposed of to Longman, who thereupon took possession of two houses in Paternoster-row, bearing the signs of the Black Swan and the Ship." Osborne shortly afterwards followed his son-in-law to "the Row," and a partnership was established which lasted during Osborne's lifetime. The first great hit of the founder of the firm of Longmans was the *Cyclopædia*. Ephraim Chambers, the author, according to an old number of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, was treated by Longman "with the liberality of a prince and the kindness of a father," receiving £500 over and above the stipulated price. In 1754, Osborne being now dead, Longman took a nephew into partnership, but before this he is to be found acting in unison with Dodsley, Miller, and other great publishers of the day in the issue of such important works as Johnson's *Dictionary*. On the 10th of June, 1755—only two months after the publication of the *Dictionary*, Thomas Longman died, and having no children, half of his partnership stock went to his nephew and namesake. Under his management the old traditions were kept up, more copyrights of standard books were purchased, and the country and colonial branches of the business were extended. In the books of the Stationers' Company this second Thomas Longman figures as whole or part publisher of dictionaries, histories, and law books, by the Kendricks, Hookes, Lelands, and Horsefields—all profitable authors in their generation, though almost forgotten now. In connection with the publishers' clubs (a "combination arrangement" now wholly out of date) he furthermore purchased fragments of the copyrights of the *Arabian Nights*, of Cocker's *Arithmetic*, of Johnson's *Rasselas*, of *Spectators*, *Tattlers*, *Grandisons*, and of *Humphrey Clinker*. Withdrawing partially from business in 1795, he was succeeded by his son Thomas Norton Longman as head of the firm, and another partner at this time was Mr. Owen Rees, who for more than forty years continued in active connection with the house. When an additional paper duty was suggested the representations made by the Longmans induced the Government to alter their course, it being shown that this single firm would have their operations checked to the amount of £100,000—a fact indicating the magnitude of the Longmans' transactions even at this period. In 1799, the firm purchased a large share in the copyright of Lindley Murray's *English Grammar*, one of the most profitable school-books issued from the press. For many years the annual sale of the abridgment was, in England alone, from 48,000 to 50,000 copies. Chambers's *Cyclopædia* was entirely recast, rewritten, and renamed, and again, under the management of Abraham Rees—after whom it was called—came out in quarto form in parts, at a total cost of £85. The ablest scientific and technical writers of the day were retained, and amongst them we find the names of Humphry Davy, John Abernethy, Sharon Turner, John Flaxman, and Henry Brougham. In the twenty years between 1804 and 1824 the firm was strengthened by a succession of partners, the new members being chiefly chosen on account of the zeal and talent they had displayed as *employés*. At the latter date its style and title was "Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, Brown, and Green," but subsequently, when Thomas Roberts entered, it was changed to "Longman, Green, Longman, Roberts, and Green." Thomas Longman had at one time an opportunity of becoming Byron's publisher, but he declined the *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers* because of the violent attacks it contained on his own poets—those of the Lake school. "What Scott was to Constable and Byron to Murray such was Moore to Longman." For one poem Moore received £3,000. Thomas Longman (the third) died in 1842 in his 72nd year, in consequence of a fall from his horse. When his will was proved the personalty was sworn under £200,000. His eldest son, aided by his brother William, then took command of the interest of the firm, having become a partner in 1832. This gentleman died as recently as 1879. He was closely connected in business with Lord Macaulay and many other distinguished men of letters. The great event of his life was the completion of his illustrated edition of the New Testament, which is a unique example of fine wood engraving. Its object was to produce in black and white the effect obtained in colours in the old illuminated MSS. The relations between the house of Longman and Lord Macaulay culminated in the famous cheque (of which the *British and Colonial Printer* gives a *fac-simile*) for £20,000 "on ac." of the profits of the third and fourth volumes of Macaulay's *History*. The cheque is still preserved in a frame in one of the rooms of the establishment in Paternoster-row. Macaulay and his heirs made over £3,000 from the *Lays of Ancient Rome*, which the author thought so little of that he presented them to the firm on the mere condition that they would be brought out. A small first edition being, however, bought up eagerly by the public, Longmans gave the copyright back to Lord (then Mr.) Macaulay. Lord Beaconsfield put all his novels in Messrs. Longmans' hands in 1870, the year in which *Lothair* was published. Subsequently the firm bought all the copyrights, and when *Endymion* was issued they purchased that also for £10,000. "Some one told Lord Beaconsfield that the firm had lost money by this, and his Lordship at once wrote to say that he would be glad if the Messrs. Longman would publish the book on the same principle as *Lothair*. If this had been done he would have had to refund a large sum. This was a most liberal offer, but it was magnanimously declined. As a matter of fact, the book, notwithstanding the sum paid for it, yielded a moderate profit." Altogether this account of the rise of the house of Longman is worthy of perusal *in extenso*. Besides the £20,000 cheque mentioned above, *fac-similes* are given of the autographs of Lord Beaconsfield, Lord Macaulay, William and Mary Howitt, Robert Southey, Tom Taylor, Bishop Colenso, and other contributors of eminence, and there is also a reproduction of a characteristic letter by Sydney Smith.

THE DEATH-ROLL OF 1884.

The deaths of the year have not included any reigning Sovereign except the Duke of Brunswick, unless King Cetewayo be classed as one; but the Royal houses of Europe have nearly all been thrown into mourning by the deaths of the young Duke of Albany, the Prince of Orange, the Empress Dowager (Maria-Anna) of Austria, Prince George of Saxony, the Landgrave of Hesse, and one of the Saxe-Coburg Princes. The English aristocracy has sustained some very severe losses during the year, including the Duke of Buccleuch, the Duke of Wellington, the Duchess of Somerset, the Marquises of Hertford, Londonderry, and Cholmondeley, the Dowager Countess of Shrewsbury and Talbot, the Earls of Sandwich, Cowley, Lauderdale, and Scarborough, Earl Grosvenor, Viscount Torrington, Lord Ampthill, Lady Bridport, Lord Stafford, and the Hon. Gilbert Leigh. The names of Lords Ampthill and Cowley might have been included among the public men who have died during the year—such as Sir Bartle Frere, Mr. Fawcett, Mr. Milner Gibson, Mr. T. W. Henley at home, and Midhat Pasha, M. Rouher, Signor Sella, Herr Lasker, Count von Usedom, and Mr. Wendell Phillips abroad. The Church of England has lost many distinguished members, including Dr. R. Bickersteth, Bishop of Ripon; Dr. Darley, Bishop of Kilmore; Bishop P. C. Claughton, Dr. Goodford, Provost of Eton College; Dr. Jacobson, ex-Bishop of Chester; Mark Pattison, Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford; the Hon. W. H. Lyttelton, Dr. Law, Dean of Gloucester; the Bishop of Meaux, Dr. J. A. Giles, the Dean of Bangor, the Archbishop of Cambray, Dr. Fuller, Bishop of Niagara; Dr. O'Brien, of Brighton; Archdeacon Warlow, of Madras; Canon Jacob, Canon Girdlestone, the Bishop of Di[illegible], Canon Hume, the Dean of Cloyne, Dr. Björling, Bishop of Vesteras, in Sweden; Prebendary Boultbee, Bishop Martensen, of Denmark; Canon Toursel, the Dean of Stamford, Mgr. Rogerson, of Paris; the Bishop of Verdun, the Bishop of Mans, the Ven. Archdeacon Knox, of Killaloe; the Hon. Edmund St. John, and the Hon. Arthur C. Talbot. The Dissenting sects have lost, among other men of note, Dr. Angus Smith, the Rev. Baldwin Brown, Mr. W. H. Channing, and Dr. Cooke. The Armenian Patriarch, Monsignor Nerses, has also died during the year; as have in the Roman Catholic Church the Cardinal Archbishop of Toledo and Cardinal Bilio, who was in attendance upon the Pope. The battalion of men of letters has lost during the year Mr. A. Hayward, Mr. Blanchard Jerrold, Mr. T. Chenery, Mr. Charles Reade, Mr. J. D. Lewis, Mr. Calverley, the university tutor, Mr. Horne, the poet, Mr. H. J. Byron, and Mr. Bromley-Davenport, M.P., at home; while abroad the deaths of Count d'Haussonville, M. J. B. Dumas, and M. Mignet have created vacancies in the French Academy; and the names of MM. Quicherat and Paul Lacroix, and of H. Laube, the novelist, will be familiar to many English readers. M. B. J. Dumas belonged as much to the scientific as he did to the literary world, and science has sustained no greater loss during the year; though Dr. Voelcker and M. Wurtz were both eminent chemists; while Dr. Schlegel, who committed suicide, was an eminent Dutch naturalist. The deaths of Mr. Justice Williams and of Mr. Longfield, ex-judge in Ireland, were the most noteworthy in the legal world; and medicine has not to deplore the death of more than one famous man: Sir Erasmus Wilson. The mortality among military and naval men has, upon the other hand, been very heavy, for Generals Sir W. Codrington, A. Cunynghame, and Sir D. Russell, Admirals Sir S. S. Pasley, Sir Rodney Mundy, and H. C. Glyn in the English services, and Generals Fleury, Schramm (France), Wimpffen (Austria), and Todleben (Russia), and Admiral Fourichon (France) have all died since the beginning of the year. The deaths of painters, sculptors, &c., include those of Bastien-Lepage, De Nittis, Hans Mackart, Richter, and F. Holl, R.A., while in the musical and dramatic world such names as Sir Michael Costa, Victor Massé, Marie Litton, Fanny Elssler, and the Frezzolini, deserve special mention. The sporting world has lost Mr. Caledon Alexander, Sim Templeman the jockey, Lord Mostyn, and Sir Richard Bulkeley; and Paul Morphy, the chess-player; Delmonico, the New York restaurant-keeper; Count Pahlen, the friend and companion of Talleyrand; Bass the brewer, and Mr. Robert Grimston, the great cricketer, have also died in the course of the year.

On Christmas Eve the Princess Beatrice and the Duchess of Albany distributed gifts from the Queen to school children attending Whippingham Church, and to widows and others on the Osborne estate.

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Total Annual Income	£343,271
Total Amount of Claims upon Death	£2,373,683
Amount of Profits divided at the last Quinquennial Bonus	£437,347

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LONDON, January 3.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

At length there is good news from Egypt. A messenger from Khartoum has penetrated to the English quarters, bearing the brief but very welcome message from General Gordon, "Khartoum all right. Dec. 14." The messenger gives interesting details of the defence and investment of Khartoum. The forces that the Mahdi has gathered together around the town are so vaguely estimated that it is necessary to be content with the knowledge that a considerable host of undisciplined tribesmen are in readiness to dispute the approach of the relieving force to the beleaguered city. In the meantime, the plans of Lord Wolseley have been revealed. As was long ago foreseen, he has been driven to abandon the dream of advancing to Khartoum by the river. The troops will proceed across the desert a distance of some 180 miles to Shendy, and thence it ought not to be difficult to open up communications with General Gordon. Sir Herbert Stewart set out on Tuesday. Half-way between Korti and Shendy, at an oasis well supplied with water, a camp will be formed and stores massed together, and thence the Camel Corps and the Mounted Infantry will set forth on the more difficult and dangerous part of their adventurous journey. A force is proceeding up the Nile in order to chastise the tribe that was guilty of the murder of Colonel Stewart. Communications, too, are to be opened up with Korosko, which seems to indicate that the idea of scuttling from Khartoum as soon as it is reached is still persistently adhered to. The British public will probably consider that £15,000,000 is somewhat too great a price to pay for the vindication of Mr. Gladstone's consistency in folly. The political aspects of Egyptian affairs remain as gloomy as ever. It is generally understood that no answer whatever is likely to be vouchsafed to the last financial proposals which Mr. Gladstone's Government has submitted to the Powers. And now the rumour comes that Prince von Bismarck intends to propose that a fresh Conference shall be convoked to deliberate and decide on the Egyptian question, and that it shall meet in Paris. It will be the crowning madness of the present crazy Ministry if they agree to any similar proposal. It is for the English Government itself to take the decisions which are necessary, and accept the responsibilities which are inevitable, if English authority is henceforward to predominate in the Valley of the Nile.

On Monday last Mr. Gladstone attained his seventy-fifth birthday. The opportunity was rapturously seized by the Radical press for indulging in fulsome eulogies of the Prime Minister. Even enthusiastic Radicals must have regarded with not a little amusement and amazement the fancy picture that was drawn of the great, good, and virtuous statesman, happy in the enjoyment of a universal popularity, and fortunate in the spectacle of the unequalled success and prosperity which have attended his administration of the affairs of the British Empire. For the wretched truth is in such glaring and coarse contrast with the hypocritical and interested flatteries. It is impudently stated that all Englishmen are proud of Mr. Gladstone, and the fact is that no Prime Minister has been so bitterly hated and so intensely despised. What do the English race beyond these islands think of Mr. Gladstone and his policy? Is there any question as to the contempt and loathing which he has earned in Australia, in South Africa, in India, and in Canada? Is it in Ireland that we are to look for a contented appreciation of his Administration? In Great Britain itself nine-tenths of the intelligent classes notoriously regard him with a scorn and aversion that fail to find adequate expression in the language of conventional propriety. It is quite true that the spectacle of marvellous physical energy and intellectual vigour that the Prime Minister presents in his hale old age, evokes feelings of admiring sympathy. But this in no way lessens the fierce disgust that four years' experience of the follies and blunders of his statesmanship has excited amongst all who are competent to pronounce an intelligent judgment upon them. Mr. Gladstone doubtless enjoys a certain amount of enthusiastic popularity, but it is amongst that class of the community that finds in Dr. Kenealy and in Mr. Charles Bradlaugh its political favourites. The interested flatteries of his supporters cannot avail to blind public opinion to the recognition of the truth that in every department of his activity Mr. Gladstone has failed disastrously. His financial policy, his Irish policy, his colonial policy, and his foreign policy have alike resulted in ruin and discomfiture. And when the Radical journalists, who are reluctantly driven to revile his policy, ask us to extend faith and admiration to the politician it is difficult to refrain from characterising in the harshest terms the outrage upon common sense that it is attempted to perpetrate. When Mr. Gladstone acceded to office nearly five years ago the enemies of England everywhere throughout the world rejoiced. Since that time abundant cause has been shown for their exultation. So long as Mr. Gladstone holds office it is impossible to look for the strong administration of affairs abroad or honest government at home. The one hope of English patriotism is, and remains, that Mr. Gladstone's disastrous influence on public affairs may come to an early end.

The lull in domestic politics continues. The Boundary Commissioners are proceeding in an expeditious fashion with their duties, and are fortunate inasmuch as their proceedings only appear to excite the most languid interest. No higher tribute could be required to the impartiality with which they are discharging their responsibilities. At most of the meetings of the Commissioners the issues most hotly contested seem to have reference to nothing more important than the nomenclature of the new divisions of the counties. None the less, it is to be hoped that the local leaders of the Conservative party will regard with a jealous scrutiny the new arrangements of the constituencies. There are abundant evidences in the Redistribution Bill as it now stands of the careful regard that the Radical Government has had to the electioneering interests of the Radical party. Upon the decisions of the Boundary Commissioners must depend in no small degree the future of the Conservative party. In the meanwhile the time has come to ask what is the Conservative party as a body doing to meet the new electoral conditions that will be created throughout the country? No signs are apparent of an endeavour to provide the fresh and active organisation of the party that will everywhere be essential if an effectual stand is to be made against Democratic aggression. A General Election must under any circumstances take place in 1886, and if the counties are to be held by the Conservative party, and Conservative interests in the boroughs are to be adequately represented, no time is to be lost in taking energetic measures for conducting the next electoral campaign to a triumphant issue.

THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN'S RESIGNATION.

The Church can ill spare the Bishop of Lincoln. No one since Lancelot Andrewes has so thoroughly realised the ideal of an English Bishop; nor can we see any one like him to fill his place. There may be here or there his superior in some one branch of scholarship. Another may, perhaps, have more elaborately explored some deep point of theology or patristic learning. We could point to a few who excel him in the pulpit, to more who are not less diligent and successful in diocesan administration. We are thankful to know there is no lack among us of divines who, for piety, humility, and blamelessness of life, may be worthy successors to good Bishop Wordsworth. But such a combination of learning, at once elegant and profound, of classical, scientific, and artistic research—of the gifts of genius, intellect, and poetry—of lifelong industry and toil—of unflagging devotion to ever-widening duties—of high spiritual aims pursued with unflinching Churchmanship—all brightened with wit, humour, and loving-kindness—we can never hope to see again. Such lights are hardly vouchsafed more than once in a century.

It shows how superficial the times are, that the journal which takes their name and best reflects their passing humours speaks of this great Prelate as one who, regarding mankind from the study, was little suited to cope with the multifarious calls on a modern English Bishop. In point of fact, no one has been more active and practical, or is at this hour more universally beloved, both by clergy and laity of his extensive diocese, than the present Bishop of Lincoln. This was shown in a way that should have convinced the *Times* itself when he was actually obliged to threaten his resignation in order to overcome the reluctance to be parted from him by the erection of the See of Southwell. No prelates of our time, nor of any time—not even the ubiquitous Wilberforce—is better known and loved in the villages of his wide agricultural diocese than the book-learned Bishop Wordsworth. If he had written nothing but his Confirmation Hymns, his name would be ever green in the rural parishes of all England. "Book-learned," indeed: a very giant in learning! One stands appalled at the catalogue of his writings, ranging from Athens and Pompeii to the Wesleyan Irenicum. Towering over all, his marvellous edition of the Bible is without parallel in this Church or any other. The commentary of Thomas Scott was a wonderful achievement for one man, and of little learning; but it was just the want of learning that made it possible. To write a learned introduction to every book in the Bible, with explanatory notes on the entire text, for the use at once of the scholar and the English reader, was to achieve single-handed a work which a whole company of Bishops and divines have taken nearly twenty years to complete in the *Speaker's Commentary*. It is no disparagement of the latter to say that in many respects, especially in integrity and consistency of exposition, the single-handed work is the better. It is a work for the English-speaking Church of all ages and countries, and therein is highly typical of the author. In this respect, as in others, he may justly be compared with Andrewes, who took the principal part in the Authorised Version. Like him, again, Wordsworth is the Bishop by whom the English Church is best known outside her borders. No name is more formidable at Rome, or more honoured by the Oriental and Old Catholic Churches. He is the spokesman of the Anglican Episcopate in Greek and Latin, as Wilberforce was in English. To feed the flock at home, and at the same time to uphold the *prestige* of our Church throughout the world, is a combination only seen at its best in Andrewes and Wordsworth. Laud was too narrow, and Wake too latitudinarian. For breadth and depth of theology, sound Catholic Churchmanship, and firm resistance alike to Popery and Puritanism, we know of no English divines so worthy and like-minded as the two we have coupled together.

It is a lasting discredit to the Liberal party that for all Mr. Gladstone's Churchism it was left to Lord Beaconsfield to recommend Dr. Wordsworth for the Episcopate. The Premier appears in the selection as plainly as the Chancellor in a later choice. Sooth to say, Church patronage was not Disraeli's strongest point; indeed, he was singularly free from a party use of the Crown patronage in general. A less generous consideration for the nominees of his opponents might have saved no little trouble in South Africa and elsewhere. No such mistake is ever made by the Liberals. Mr. Gladstone could allow one unsound Bishop after another to be thrust on the Church by Palmerston and Russell without remonstrance. It was this more than his political tergiversation that lost him the Ministry. And though since the patronage has been in his own hands he insists on his personal rights, he takes very good care to give nothing to a political opponent. Hence it was not unnatural in Lord Beaconsfield to regard High Churchmen as Liberals—a delusion long diligently fostered by the *Guardian*. From the political point of view Mr. Gladstone's Churchmanship may be said to have done more harm to the Church than the Liberation Society itself; for while it has never hindered him from voting with the Dissenters as the backbone of his party, it has driven a wedge into the heart of the Church party which is historically and essentially Conservative.

The Bishop of Lincoln, like all Churchmen of historical intelligence and clear-eyed resolution, is a Tory: a Church and State man, an Anglo-Catholic of the purest water: touch the metal where you will, it rings true. The new-fangled combinations have always a false note. Some Gladstonites have long ago given up the Establishment; others are preparing their leader's way by discovering that there is nothing in the Bible against incest with a wife's sister. On this point the Evangelicals are apparently firm; but there is nothing they would not swallow for the loaves and fishes of the State. The Church is in sore need of leaders like the Bishop of Lincoln, *sans peur et sans reproche*, whose banner never droops and whose trumpet gives no uncertain sound. May he still be spared to counsel when he has laid down the staff of active administration!

Of the Bishop's more private life we dare not speak; not from want of knowledge or appreciation, but because the domestic hearth is sacred and, moreover, clouded with grief. His Lordship knows that the whole Church is sorrowing with him, yielding the more resignedly to his resignation because of the bereavement which presses perhaps more heavily upon him than years or sickness. Sorrow and loneliness make his wishes sacred, otherwise we might be disposed to rebel. We do not much like resignations at any time. We do not believe in the hurry-scurry activity of modern notions. God is best served by patient continuance in well-doing: "they also serve who only stand and "wait." If we could choose, we would rather see the good old Bishop remain full of honours as of years, presiding over the diocese with the assistance of his Suffragan—he was the first Bishop of our day to revive the appointment—and retaining the much-valued tie with his loving flock until death them do part.

THE FAMILY.

Among the many lessons of Christmastide is one which in these days there are some very special reasons for enforcing. The picture set before us of the Holy Family at Bethlehem is a revelation of the awful sanctity of an institution against which in our own age the powers of evil are leagued together in bitter hatred, That lowly stable is itself a type of the Heavenly Home, and the very number of the Holy Family dwelling within it is likewise full of spiritual significance. With the Divine Child and His human Mother is associated the foster-Father, as a visible representative on earth of the true Divine Father of the Eternal Word. Here, then, is the vision of the ideal Family, stamped with the Divine Image, sanctifying the institution of the Family among men, and ordained to serve throughout all time as an example and a pattern of what every Christian family should be. In each earthly home the Divine Will has reproduced a type of the union between CHRIST and His Church, and of the offspring of that union, the children of GOD. The Family is wholly a Divine institution; the bonds by which it is knit together are sacred; the relationships existing between its members are not merely natural and human; they are supernatural and Divine. Hence it is that the Marriage-tie is holy and inviolable, and hence too the authority of parents is wielded by Divine Right, for it is delegated from God Himself. Thus, as has been often said, the Family is the unit of Society. It is the only true basis of the organism of the State. To undermine it is to sap the very foundations upon which the State rests. No wonder, therefore, that the Socialist Revolution directs all its efforts to the destruction of the Family. The attack, skilfully planned and boldly carried out, has already met with considerable success. The sanctity of the marriage-bond has been invaded by the laws permitting Divorce; the supernatural character of marriage itself is practically denied by the toleration of unions which Holy Scripture and the Church alike declare to be incestuous; while parental authority is equally set aside by the legislation which forbids the parent to exercise his right of regulating the education of his own children. All these things have happened and are happening in modern Christendom. The nations of the world are throwing off the civilisation which the Christian Religion gave them. The whole fabric of Society as it exists at the present day is the work of the Church; and the rulers who in the pride and arrogance of secular power despise and reject her ordinances may learn when it is too late that they have thereby inflicted the gravest injury upon the State itself.

There could be no more instructive illustration of the truth of what we are urging than that which has just been furnished by some remarkable revelations as to the prevalence of Divorce in the United States. One of the leading journals of New York has been giving forcible expression to the feelings with which all decent men and women in America view the existing state of things. The evidence collected by the *New York Herald* is indeed of a startling character. It appears that in the Northern States the number of divorces has more than doubled in proportion to the number of marriages and to the population within the past twenty-five or thirty years; that in a city in California one couple is divorced out of every six that are married; while even in Chicago the proportion is as high as two divorces to every nineteen marriages. This shows a worse condition of affairs than can be found in Europe, although in France, between the years 1871-9, there was an increase in the number of separations from 4·46 to 9·14 per thousand. This, of course, was before the passing of the new French Divorce Act. In England and Wales during the same period the ratio of divorces to marriages rose from ·98 to 2·17 per thousand; in Denmark—the figures seem incredible—from 36·27 to 40·29; in Belgium, from 2·85 to 7·40; in Holland, from 5·20 to 7·35; in Scotland, from ·11 to ·29; in Sweden, from 4·96 to 7·50; and in Roumania from 9·05 to 10·86. Switzerland actually shows an average proportion of 46 divorces to every thousand marriages; the ratio in some cantons being really higher than this. Yet, shocking as these figures are, they are far outdone by the American statistics. In Philadelphia, "the Quaker city," there were 101 divorces in 1862, 212 in 1870, 215 in 1872, and no less than 477 in 1882. It is not to be wondered at that a loud and urgent demand should now have arisen for some check to be put upon this ever-increasing laxity of public morals. That some effectual remedy for it may be found is devoutly to be wished; but that any legislative cure can be devised for so vast an evil is really not in the least degree probable. This is just one of the cases where prevention is not only better but far easier than cure. When concessions have been made to the spirit of laxity in public morals, it is difficult, if not impossible, to retrace the steps already taken. If once liberty of divorce is granted, the privilege can hardly be withdrawn on the simple ground that so many people have availed themselves of it. It is really no argument whatever to say that the number of divorces exhibits too large a percentage of the number of marriages; that there are 700 applications for divorce pending in Chicago; or that in Philadelphia the divorce-record shows one divorce suit for every 250 families. Terrible as these details are, the true evil lies in the principle rather than in the extensiveness of its application. We wish all success to the movement for reformation; but it is impossible to help seeing that the chances of effecting it are exceedingly slender.

Our chief reason for drawing attention to these sad facts is to point out the very seasonable warning which they convey. We, too, like the Americans, have our Divorce Act, the evil results of which have steadily increased for many years past, and which, it may confidently be predicted, will extend still farther. On this particular subject, therefore, it would be hopeless to trust to any remedial legislation, and the matter must be left to the influence of religious teaching among the masses. But on a question that is closely kindred to that of Divorce, we have still an opportunity of warning the country of the perils before it. We allude to the attempt, soon about to be renewed, to legalise Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister. The result of permitting these unions in America and elsewhere is as notoriously disastrous to public morality as the result of the divorce laws. The statistics on the subject exhibit a similar increase in national depravity. The frightful extent of the mischief is established in both cases alike by the clearest evidence. The difference between them lies in the fact that while it is now too late to avert the evil effects of the Divorce Act, there is still time to profit at least by the warning conveyed by the statistics of marriages contracted within the prohibited degrees. The vigorous, though we fear vain, efforts now being made by the respectable classes in the United States to undo the appalling evils brought about by past legislation may at least serve to admonish us to be wise in time, and to resist with our whole energies the attempts of those who would lead us still farther on a road that can end only in the moral degradation and ruin of the nation.

We are informed that his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland has been prevailed upon to accept the advice tendered him from an august quarter, and has expressed his willingness to relinquish his claims to the Crown of Hanover. Under these circumstances, there is ground for believing that the Imperial Government of Germany will consent not only to restore to the Duke the private property taken from the late King of Hanover in 1866, but also to recognise his Royal Highness as heir to the Throne of Brunswick.

Reviews.

A COUPLE OF AUTOBIOGRAPHIES.*

We have joined together in this notice two works, of which the only common feature is that they are autobiographical, and that they disclose to us many interesting features and make us acquainted with many interesting characters of the last half-century. M. Maxime du Camp and M. Guizot both boasted of a very large circle of friends; but the statesman, of course, numbered amongst his only sober, sedate diplomatists and politicians—his own family apart; whilst the amusing *littérateur* was fond of frequenting poets', artists', and tourists' society, and his inquiring spirit led him sometimes on the confines of Bohemia. Lamartine, Alexandre Dumas, Gérard de Nerval, Alfred de Musset, George Sand, and Théophile Gautier contribute a great deal of animation to these two amusing volumes; and it is sometimes startling to see the eccentricities which men of imagination are capable of. It argues extreme fondness of notoriety, for instance, to dye one's hair *green!* Such was the whim which took possession of Charles Baudelaire, a writer of the most unhealthy imagination, whose volume of poems, *Les Fleurs du Mal*, were found so scandalous to even the French censors that the first edition was seized, and the work could not be published except after having been carefully and thoroughly expurgated. The author of *The Three Musketeers*, too, was a *quasi*-Bohemian, and none but the most original of men would have gone to Naples for the sole purpose of offering his services gratuitously as Director of the Fine Arts. It is true that shortly after his nomination he was very nearly pitched into the sea by an infuriated mob to the cries of *Fuori i stranieri*. Mdme. Collet is another person who occupies a place in this most amusing gallery. No English reader has ever heard her mentioned as a poetess, and yet for some considerable time she was reputed one of the Muses of contemporary France. Peace be to her memory! She rose into notoriety from the fact of her having deliberately stabbed M. Alphonse Karr for some severe strictures he had passed upon her talents; and if she were alive now, and possessed with the same spirit of sensitiveness, we should certainly tremble for M. Maxime du Camp's life.

We have named *individual* eccentricities, and we might have enumerated a hundred more; the *collective* oddities are represented by the Saint-Simonians and the adepts of the table-turning mania. It seems certainly most singular that Saint-Simon's followers should have numbered amongst themselves men such as Augustin Thierry, Michel Chevallier, Arlès-Dufour, and Periou; but this fact only serves to prove that one plausible idea may blind the most distinguished thinkers on the absurdities by which that idea is surrounded.

It would be wrong to suppose that literature and art have exclusively contributed to the materials of M. du Camp's work. The preliminaries of the Franco-Prussian War, the *coup d'état* of December 1, and the other leading events of the Second Empire are related in a serious and feeling manner, and the second volume terminates with an eloquent essay on the consolations which intellectual pursuits offer when they are cultivated for themselves, and not as a stepping-stone for ambition.

M. Guizot's correspondence introduces, we need scarcely say, men of literary distinction, whose names will live in the brilliant roll of French genius: M. Vitet, for instance, M. de Barante, and the Abbé Gratry; but the impression it has produced upon us is as different as possible from that which we have derived from M. Maxime du Camp's reminiscences. We seem to move in the calmest, the most serene atmosphere; and whilst we watch the distinguished statesman in the midst of his family, writing to his mother, his wife, and his children on domestic topics, on home duties, home pleasures, home interests, we forget that the author of these charming letters is the man who was considered as the sternest of characters, utterly incapable of either smiling or feeling. The first letter is dated October 28, 1810; the last, May 22, 1874. When he wrote the first he was just beginning to make himself known; his articles on Châteaubriand in the *Publiciste* had been much and favourably noticed; it gives interesting details of his literary occupations and of those of Mdlle. Pauline de Meulan, who was soon to become his wife. The last letter is written in the mournful tone of a man who has behind him the experience of a busy life, who has had his share both of popularity and of abuse, of happiness and of disappointment, and who has learned to value all things at their true rate.

"I feel no pain anywhere," said he to the Countess Mollier, "but I am weak everywhere. You will see it by my handwriting; so I merely want to show you that I am still alive. I have found my meadows very green, my glyciors in full bloom, my garden thoroughly well attended to; there is nothing in a state of decay but myself. What a contrast between that perpetual renovation of nature and our own decay! All the more reason to hope that we are not destined to die entirely.

"I stop on that thought. I leave the world in a great state of trouble. How will it revive? I know not, but I believe in its revival. Tell this, I pray, to my friends. I do not like to know that they are discouraged."

Amongst M. Guizot's English correspondents, Lord Aberdeen was the one for whom he felt the greatest sympathy; the numerous letters addressed to him, which are inserted in this volume, are of the deepest interest.

The name of the Duchess de Broglie only occurs three times at the head of letters written by M. Guizot, whose intimate friend she was, and who held so distinguished a place in the Protestant world during the first few years of the reign of Louis Philippe. The readers of Ticknor's memoirs cannot but have noticed the manner in which he speaks of that truly admirable person, her piety, her charity, her intellectual gifts of every kind. She died on the 22nd of September, 1838, and in her, it is not too much to say, M. Guizot lost one of the persons who contributed most to influence his life for good.

The small volume we have thus noticed is of a much more varied character than might be thought at first; but that variety does not result, as in M. du Camp's *souvenirs*, from the crowd of *dramatis personæ* which file off before us. It is derived from the many-sided nature of M. Guizot's own mind, and his habit (an excellent one) of taking always *au sérieux* whatever occupied for the time his attention: religion or politics, art or literature. The flippancy of the present generation cannot enter into such feelings, but for those who take a proper view of life, the correspondence of the illustrious French statesman is full of wholesome instruction.

A batch of S.P.C.K. publications claims a special notice at this time. As giftbooks they will be specially welcome, being all very tastefully illustrated and got up, though varying in style, merit, and suitability to different classes of readers. *Muriel's Two Crosses*, by Annette Lyster, is a well-written and interesting tale of girl-life, which conveys a useful lesson in a pleasant and readable form. The heroine is good and charming, while the tragic element introduced towards the close of the tale redeems it from being commonplace, and throws into stronger light and shade the various characters introduced in its pages. We recommend the book as a suitable gift for young ladies. *The Pride of the Village*, by A. Eubule-Evans, recounts the history and adventures of a village boy who by his cleverness and industry is advanced from humble beginnings to a prosperous condition of life. The style of writing is somewhat stilted, and there is a want of naturalness in the tale which detracts from its attractiveness. *Cuthbert Conningsby*, by Evelyn Everett-Green, and *The Valley of Baca*, by the author of *Douglas Deane*, are both stories of the same class—high-flown, gushing, and brimming over with pretty religious sentiment. Such books, if possibly harmless, cannot, we consider, effect any good, being productive of an unhealthy mawkishness and false views of life. *Bearing the Yoke*, by Helen Shipton, and *Bob Curtman's Wife* are tales of village life, and written in a simple and vigorous style. Both are readable and interesting, and can be recommended as suitable for lending libraries or school prizes. *The One Army*, by S. M. Sitwell, is a lively and amusing story of the two orphan children of an officer, who each do their part valiantly—the one as a hospital nurse, and the other at the Seat of War in South Africa. The book, though perhaps a little overstrained in its aim, cannot fail to give pleasure to the youthful readers for whom it is intended.

The *Penny Post* for January contains the opening chapters of a new serial story, entitled "David Bruce," and the first part of a very readable sketch of the period of the Franco-Prussian War. No. VI. of the series of papers on "The Dioceses of England" deals with that of Winchester, and supplies much information concerning its foundation. There is also an article on Orvieto Cathedral, and some verse of considerable merit.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

A prize of £3 3s. in money will be given at the end of each quarter to the solver of the greatest number of our Double Acrostics during the thirteen weeks. Solutions must reach the office not later than the Monday week following the date of publication, and must be signed with a distinct pseudonym, of not inordinate length. Ties will be guessed off the following quarter. Solutions must be addressed ACROSTIC EDITOR, *John Bull*, 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street. Alternatives allowed to the number of three: anyone sending more to a single light will not be credited. In the case of a quotation, the word intended by the author must be given, even if others should answer the sense of the light.

ANSWER TO DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 5.

(THIRTY-SIXTH QUARTER.)

1. M usi C
2. O lla Podrid A
3. N ige R
4. T ransvaa L
5. E ch O

Solutions have been received from Burleigh, Pegasus, Max, Zenobia, Katydid, B.H.S., Zante, Conjecture, Persevere, Paddy, Zyx, Ketha, Land o' Nod, Culverin, Iris, The Owl, Seedy, Hampton Courtier, Sociable, Pandora, M.A.E.B., Dunstan, Little Bear, Etak, L.E.L., Pupdogwow, Sleepy, Roma, Sarnia, Spero, Pansy, Work, Zulus, Vix, Acme, Noremac, Asphodel, Hadji, Peewit, Felix, Kildare, and Bruce.

Acknowledgments of solutions of Acrostic No. 4 received from Asphodel, Work, Acme, and Peewit were accidentally omitted last week.

The name and address of "Katydid" are—Miss Helmore, 72, St. George's-square, S.W.

ZANTE.—All answers received are acknowledged.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 7.

(THIRTY-SIXTH QUARTER.)

PROEM.

Their rival claims all housewives know,
And to the wall my sterner first must go.

1.
Come when you're called, and go where you're bid.

2.
Throw me down without reason, and you'll surely be chid.

3.
"Liberty doth Justice pluck by" this.

4.
I often am marked by applause or a hiss.

MARS.

LITERARY AND OTHER NOTES.

Our esteemed correspondent the Rev. J. E. Rudd, rector of Covenham St. Mary, Lincolnshire, sends us the following:—"The early days of the ensuing month of January wear an exceedingly cold aspect. As the month advances the cold will strengthen.

'A kindly good Janiveer
Freezeth the pot by the feer (fire).
Jack Frost in Janiveer
Nips the nose of the nascent year.
The blackest month in all the year
Is the month of Janiveer.'

'Quien no tiene calzas en Enero
No fies del tu divero'—

i.e., Do not lend money to a man who does not wear breeches in January (the coldest month in the year). The month at intervals will be characterised by cold and stormy weather. The temperature will be milder towards the end of the month."

From the same source comes the following:—

"It is affirmed by some, when New Year's Day falleth on Thursday, then Winter and Summer windie: a rainie harveste; therefore we shall have overflowings: much fruite: plenty of honey: yet flesh shall be deare: cattell in general shall die: great trouble, warres, &c."

Messrs. Burns and Oates have issued the prospectus of a work in five volumes in preparation by Mr. Joseph Gillow, entitled *A Literary and Biographical History; or, Bibliographical Dictionary of the English Catholics, from the Reformation in* 1534 *to the Present Time*. In order to make the work as complete as possible, Mr. Gillow invites the assistance of any who may be in possession of manuscripts, scarce books, or biographical information unlikely to have come under his supervision or knowledge. The first volume is ready for the press.

A new weekly paper is to be published in February next, under the title of *The Lady; A Journal for Gentlewomen*. It is to be essentially English in its character, and will represent an attempt to treat fashions and all other matters in which ladies are concerned from an English point of view. The project has excited much interest in Society, and has strong support from many ladies of position.

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* *Souvenirs Littéraires.* Par Maxime du Camp, de l'Académie Française. In Two Vols. 8vo.—London and Paris: Hachette and Co., 1884.

Lettres de M. Guizot, à sa Famille et à ses Amis. Recueillées par Mdme. de Witt (*née* Guizot). 12mo.—London and Paris: Hachette and Co., 1884.

The *Athenæum* says that Dr. Murray intends to settle at Oxford before long, with a view to enjoying greater facilities in carrying out the arduous and truly national task on which he is engaged of editing the *New English Dictionary*. He will get rid of the teaching at Mill-hill, which has hitherto occupied a considerable portion of his time and naturally interfered with his *magnum opus*.

Two men, while engaged last week in cutting a drain on land belonging to Mr. Ferguson, near Beaumont, Cumberland, came upon a large quantity of coins of the reign of Edward I. and King David I. of Scotland. One of the men had his hat full of the coins, while the other had nearly as many. The coins were buried beneath a round stone close to the surface of the earth, and had evidently been enclosed in a bag or some other covering, as a mouldy substance was observed when the coins were discovered. They are in an excellent state of preservation.

According to the *Academy*, Mr. Thornton's work on *Harrow School and its Surroundings*, which has been delayed in consequence of some fresh discoveries having been made concerning the earlier history of the school, will be published by Messrs. Allen and Co. early in 1885. Evidence has been found proving that a school existed on the hill before John Lyon obtained his charter in 1571, and glimpses of its later growth are afforded by documents of 1662 and 1698. In 1721 Harrow made a great advance, the number of scholars under Dr. Brian being 144.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says that the sorting of Archduke Rainer's valuable collection of papyri has led to further discoveries of the greatest interest. In the Greek section are a number of fragments attributed to Aristotle. In the old list of Imperial papyri written in Greek are specimens attributed to Marcus Aurelius, Severus Alexander, and Philippus the Arabian. There are others of Carus and Licinius. Numerous historical papyri establish the hitherto disputed date when the Emperor Maximinus the Thracian began his reign. It is clear from their contents that he ascended the throne at the end of March, A.D. 235; while during the early part of the same month Severus Alexander was still at the head of the State. Amongst the rare Latin papyri are two receipts of the actuary Sergius, dating from A.D. 398. They are the oldest dated Latin documents in existence. In the same group figures a decree of a provincial governor dating from the fifth century. It is an order to four soldiers of the fifth legion to proceed to Arsinoë el Foajum for the Easter festival, and grants them a remuneration. A Græco-Latin papyrus of the same period contains a report on certain documents of the Prefect Augustalis. In the Arabic section there is a revolutionary proclamation, dated A.D. 867. This part of the collection further includes ten well-preserved letters in Arabic, dating from A.D. 812. They are orders from a tax-gatherer for writing material and papyrus rolls. They show how at that time papyrus was an expensive and rare commodity in trade, having been superseded by cotton and linen fibrous paper. According to these letters a roll of papyrus about two and a half yards long cost something over two shillings.

The Theatres, &c.

As usual, the majority of the West-end theatres have made no alteration in their bills for the holiday season. At the Haymarket the singularly good all-round representation of *Diplomacy* is offered. *Romeo and Juliet*, with Miss Anderson as the heroine, remains undisturbed at the Lyceum; and at the Princess's, *Hamlet*, with Mr. Wilson Barrett as the Dane, was played on Boxing afternoon and night. The St. James's relies upon *The Ironmaster*, in which Mrs. Kendal acts so well. *Our Boys* goes on at the Strand; and *The Private Secretary* at the Globe. Messrs. Gatti depend solely upon *In the Ranks*, at the Adelphi; and Messrs. Clayton and Cecil upon the successful comedy *Young Mrs. Winthrop*, at the Court. Mr. Thomas Thorne is doing well at the Vaudeville with *Saints and Sinners*; M. Mayer's winter season of French plays in going on prosperously at the Royalty; and *The Grand Mogul* is drawing good houses at the Comedy. *The Candidate* is a lucky venture of Mr. Wyndham's at the Criterion; and *The Babes*, at Toole's, fills the theatre. The Avenue programme still includes *Lilies*. In accordance with a modern fashion, an exchange of plays has been made at the Olympic and the Prince's. *Twins*, hitherto played at the former theatre, is transferred bodily to the house in Coventry-street; and *Called Back* is performed by the original representatives at the Olympic. The Imperial goes on with *Plot and Passion*, and the Opera Comique is the only West-end theatre remaining closed. At Sadler's Wells Mr. Pettitt's drama *The Black Flag* is the attraction.

At Drury Lane Mr. Augustus Harris has produced a pantomime which for general splendour, elaborate processions, and dramatic variety will hold its own against all its predecessors. It deals with the old familiar story of *Whittington and his Cat*, and has been written by Mr. E. L. Blanchard, who has been prompted to make some interpolations that are certainly not out of character with the original fabric, and cannot provoke objection, as they come at the most fanciful part of the story—namely, when Dick has acquired fortune through his Cat's raid upon the rats in Morocco, and is anxious to return to England and join his beloved Alice. As a portion of his reward for ridding the country of the pestilent rodents the Emperor promises Dick the hand of the Princess, who, as represented by Miss Dot Mario at Drury Lane, is certainly not an undesirable matrimonial prize. But Dick is faithful to Alice. He would like to have the Emperor's gold but not his daughter, so the lovesick youth induces his friend the Captain of the Ship to take his place in the Eastern wedding ceremonial, whilst he succeeds in escaping. For the rest, there is but little deviation from the main lines of the familiar story. After a short mystic scene, and another illustrative of feline training in Catland, sustained by children, the plot proper begins in the shop of the prosperous Alderman Fitzwarren. Dick and his Cat have aroused the enmity of the Idle Apprentice and the Cook, who, after a burglary has been committed at night, persistently attempt to fix the theft upon the honest youth, who has really disturbed the marauders. Dick's explanation is not believed. He contrives to free himself from custody, and is next seen at Highgate, where the dream of future civic greatness is pictorially represented in the clouds. In the seventh scene the better-known incidents of Dick's stay in Morocco are detailed. The Cat, of course, makes but short work of the rats, and Dick gets away, after coming to the already-described amicable arrangement with the Captain, who very conveniently is enamoured of the Princess. The Emperor is very angry at his scheme of retaining Dick and his treasure being foiled, and he follows him to England, where he arrives in time to witness the popularity of Whittington, as the new Lord Mayor passes through the streets of Old London in civic state. The Transformation is emblematic of the four elements separately, and has for its final tableau a pretty water scene, with nymphs disporting amid coral caves, whilst Britannia is borne on a dolphin. The scene is more suggestive than most works of its kind, and has been admirably painted by Mr. H. Emden. Miss Fannie Leslie takes the part of Dick Whittington, and acts it with her own engaging ease and joyousness. The Sisters Mario dance and sing well together. Messrs. Herbert Campbell and Harry Nicholls have some amusing business. Miss Kate Munroe sings very agreeably as Alice; the Cat of Mr. Charles Lauri, jun., is quite a feline study; and Miss M. A. Victor, Mr. Harry Parker, and Mr. James T. Powers have a very fair grasp of the whimsical characteristics of Mrs. Fitzwarren, the Alderman, and the Emperor respectively. Mr. Harry Payne is the Clown of the the Harlequinade.

The Christmas piece at Covent Garden, which has been transformed into a circus, is *St. George and the Dragon*. It is but a pretty little children's spectacle, played without scenery in the ring, and lasting some three-quarters of an hour. With the exception of a small space reserved for the passage way of the performers, the band being raised overhead, the audience surrounds the ring. Previous to the performance of the pantomime various artists appear, amongst them being Mdme. Oceana, a wire-walker; Mr. George Batty, who goes through a "great jockey act," jumping on to his horse from the ground with the greatest freedom, unsaddling the animal, and doing all with much smartness; and the Chiesi troupe of eight persons, who perform many clever acrobatic tricks. The first part of the programme finished, three youthful Demons rush into the ring, and the pantomime commences. Some tripping little Fairies follow, and then the interest begins in earnest. A dreadful Dragon sounds all sorts of war alarms from the back, while it is then announced he had threatened to devour the beautiful Princess. St. George, however, opportunely arrives with some smartly-clad followers, and the historic combat having been completed satisfactorily, and the kangaroo-like Dragon disposed of, a grand procession of notabilities takes place—infantile Miss Andersons, Mr. Gus Harris's, &c., appearing. The pantomime is played by some very clever and well-trained children, and the dresses are most gorgeous.

Her Majesty's has been opened for Promenade Concerts "*à la* Jullien," with Mr. Odoardo Barri as conductor. He has under his command a full and complete orchestral band, with Mr. Viotti Collins as leader and solo violinist, and several excellent players in the various departments, including Mr. Harper, solo contra bass, and a trombone player from the Royal College of Music, Mr. Samuel Millar, the firstfruits of that establishment. There is also a selection of military instruments to augment the effect of certain of the selections taken from the band of Her Majesty's Scots Guards, under the direction of Mr. J. P. Clarke, by permission of Colonel Moncreiff. The theatre is prettily decorated, and furnished with brilliant chandeliers, illuminations, and devices by Defries, and the back of the stage is formed into a lounge, a garden in the Eastern style. At the Empire a new two-act comic opera has been produced by Messrs. Sydney Grundy and Edward Solomon, with the title of *Pocahontas*. It tells the story of an Indian maid who falls in love with her father's captive. The first act opens in a British settlement in North America, which is threatened by the Indians, headed by the famed Pocahontas, or the White Pearl, queen of the tribe, reported to be of European origin. General Van Tromp, a "fashionable" general, whose stars, honours, and cowardice are made materials for some scathing satire on British general-worshippers, has arrived to subdue the Indians, but, learning the danger of the enterprise, leaves the fighting to a brave Captain Smith. Pocahontas, coming into the camp to spy upon the British, falls in love with Smith, but, listening to a spirit-voice that bids her save her people, determines to sacrifice her lover for them. In the second act Pocahontas repents her resolve, and when the British troops fall into an ambuscade protects her lover. Hearing, however, that he has compromised himself with one Widow Thompson, her jealousy is fired, and she leads the tribe on to vengeance. Again she relents, and Smith, declaring his constancy, consents to mount with her a funeral pyre, "according to the laws of her nation." The troops prevent this fiery ordeal, and the Indians, being defeated, are secured for the Royal Eastminster Aquarium. Miss Lilian Russell as Pocahontas sings with feeling and taste, while Mr. F. Celli at short notice gives artistic finish to his numbers. Mr. J. L. Shine is Van Tromp, and makes it passably humorous. At the Gaiety Mr. Pinero's comedy, *In Chancery*—first brought out at the Lyceum, Edinburgh, in September last—has been placed in the bill. Mr. Terry keeps the house amused throughout; while Mr. Alfred Bishop, Miss Maria Jones, and Miss Clara Jecks are the most prominent among his supporters. The holiday attraction at the Savoy includes a children's performance of *The Pirates of Penzance*, to be given on every afternoon, except Saturday, during several weeks to come, the evenings being, as heretofore, occupied by *The Sorcerer*, which continues, to draw large audiences. The juveniles act their parts with zest and quaint seriousness, four of the characters being played by the young folks as satisfactorily as by the adults at the Opera Comique, while in another character the vocal and histrionic efficiency taken together was even better. Master Edward Percy is remarkably humorous and self-possessed as the General (Mr. Grossmith's old part), and Master Harry Tebbutt sings the music of Frederic with rare beauty of vocal tone and felicitous expression. These two most successfully distinguish themselves, but the performance has from first to last singular merit.

Mr. John Douglass's Christmas piece at the Standard is entitled *Cinderella; or, The Fairy of the Little Glass Slipper*. The story, as here told, differs very slightly from the version which successive generations of children have accepted with implicit faith. Among the scenic marvels shown are the Realms of Fire and the Regions of Perpetual Winter. Mr. George Conquest has at the Surrey provided a grand spectacular pantomime in *Aladdin*, and one of which he well may be proud. There are several very pretty scenes, the most picturesque of which is Aladdin's Enchanted Palace. In working out the story, the chief idea has evidently been to show that Aladdin was an ingenuous youth, ever ready at song and dance; that he boasted a mamma with many weaknesses, counterbalanced by exceedingly good humour; and that the story of the Magician's wickedness was all fable. The most novel interpolation in the story is Slihi, a secondary Genius of the Ring. He is a sort of composite demon, specially invented for Mr. Conquest, jun., to play. By means of a dummy, artfully contrived to fit at the middle, the appearance is obtained of a man "pick-a-back." As played by the younger Mr. Conquest the result is extremely diverting, there being much scope for humorous bye-play in the lower head objecting to what the upper says. The scene where this demon is introduced is the Cave of Jewels. Here, also, the first ballet takes place. Some very artistic effects are obtained by revolving shields seen under the rays of the limelight, showing a hundred dancing tints; but undoubtedly the best effect of the whole scene is the introduction of several real fountains, which are justly called the Gorgeous Fountains of Liquid Gems. Miss Maud Stafford played Aladdin to perfection, and Mr. Victor Stevens is successful as his mamma. The Albert and Edmunds troupe are responsible for most of the other characters. A capital harlequinade is provided by Mr De Lacy as Clown, and Mr. J. Albert as Pantaloon. At Sanger's Amphitheatre the proprietor, Mr. George Sanger, has provided a capital entertainment. There is a good equestrian exhibition in the arena, followed by a pantomime of the ordinary type, some feats of skill on a tight-rope, or rather wire, and a show of beasts, birds, and reptiles, which will attract much attention. The pantomime is by Mr. Oswald Allan, and is entitled *Old Dame Trot*, in which the scenes and dresses are all of an artistic and brilliant description. St. George is represented forcibly by Miss Carrie Lee Stoyle; Dame Trot is a good representation by Mr. Harry Stuart; and the same may be said for Mr. Harry Malcolm's Mother Hubbard. Other characters are Elaine (Miss Violet Russell), Miss Lizzie Kelsey (Lady Godiva), Miss Maud Sanson, Miss Maud Dennison, Miss Fanny Harcourt, and Mdlle. Azella. The exceedingly graceful riding of Miss Harriet Sanger is especially deserving of notice. The Crystal Palace pantomime, which has been produced under the direction of Mr. Augustus Harris, is from the pen of Mr. Horace Lennard, and is entitled *Jack and the Beanstalk*. The principal feature is the large number of adult giants, some so gigantic that the stage is not large enough for their accommodation. They are admirably got up and contribute considerably to the success of the piece. Mr. Lennard makes Jack's good genius the Spirit of Pantomime, who is represented by Miss Emma D'Auban with a terpsichorean grace and vivacity of manner that are of great benefit to the performance. The nimble Mr. John D'Auban plays a grotesque Servant of Jack's Mother. Miss Emily Duncan realises in smart and dapper fashion the self-reliance of Jack, who duly sells his cow for the handful of beans, and when the stalk has sprung far into the sky, climbs it with his friends and relations in order to save the Princess from the terrible Ogre. The adventures encountered in the Land of Giants, where giant tradesmen call for orders and where human nature asserts itself by a giant housemaid cautiously issuing from her employer's house to have an interview with a giant soldier, humorously carry on the story until the time has almost come for the Transformation, a bold effect of gold with egg-shaped pinnacles that, on revolving, add another contingent to the lustrously-attired damsels already grouped below. The Land of Nursery Rhymes, early in the action, serves as a reminiscence of the best known juvenile tales, and here there is a pretty Dance of Toys and of Dolls, an odd combination being the association of the tall, stiff wooden soldiery with the simplest-dressed dolls. The regular ballet scene has some tasteful *tableaux*, and introduces the neat *pas* of Mdlle. Luna; but the most striking feature of the scene is the entry of a juvenile corps of Scarlet Runners, whose bright-hued, tight-fitting costumes are in excellent contrast to those of the older dancers. There is also a telling Procession of Trades in the market-place, and the scenery is very picturesque. The great attraction for juveniles at the Royal Aquarium is a representation in the *tableaux* of the fairy tale of *Cinderella*, by children. In the first *tableau* we are shown the home of the three sisters, in which the drudgery of the one is contrasted with the vanity of the other two, and the incidents of the preparation for the ball are gone through. In the second *tableau*, the arena is transformed into a ball room, and the arrival of the guests is the cause of some amusement, for the gentlemen personate not only Orientals but also modern celebrities. The first Napoleon, in historic costume and attitude, ignores the Prince on the dais and stands gazing at the ground until the Prince descends to receive him. Jonathan displays the stars on his hat and the stripes in his garments. The heroes of the Soudan are not forgotten. The company go through the "Grand Duchess Quadrilles," and then, during a waltz, the clock is heard striking twelve. Cinderella counts the strokes and hurries away, and the slipper of glacé silk is picked up by the Prince and disowned by the ladies. In the third *tableau* it is claimed by Cinderella, who is driven off by the Prince in the gilded coach in which the Fairy had previously sent her to the ball. Thus, in little over half-an-hour, the leading incidents of the story are told in pantomime, with sufficient accessories in the way of spectacle and humour to interest young and old. The other items of the programme include the novel musical entertainment of the Avolo boys, the performances of three Australian jumping horses, the marvellous swimming feats of the Beckwith family, and the trained fleas. The organ recitals, the performing seals, and feats of memory by Professor Stokes and his pupils are further examples of the abundant variety of the entertainment. At the Alhambra, *The Swans*, with Mdlle. Palladino as the *première danseuse*, still remains in the programme, which is made still further attractive by the addition of a ballet of a fantastic character, entitled *Melusine*, which is the means of introducing some brightly-dressed groups of pretty and graceful dancers, who trip daintily to some tuneful music, composed by M. Jacobi. The miscellanies of the programme include the very laughable Osrani troupe; the Indiarubber Four; Mr. Fred. Coyne; Dutch Daly; Mdlle. Jeunet, globe equilibrist; and Master O'Brady. At Mr. and Mrs. German Reed's entertainment at St. George's Hall Langham-place, Mr. Corney Grain, who has just returned to England from Egypt, where he has been for rest and change of scene, gives a highly diverting musical sketch which he calls *Backsheesh*, because the word has been incessantly dinned into his ears for the past six weeks. The trials of a sleepless man in a steamer, the oddities of conduct and speech of travellers he met, and the peculiarities of Egyptian donkey boys, all furnish matter for good-natured fun at the hands of this most genially humorous of entertainers. His songs, "Jamais en Angleterre" and the "Legend of the Cairo Donkey Boys," may be placed among the best things of the kind he has done. The dramatic and musical illustrations between which his performance is introduced are *Old Knockles*, written by Mr. Alfred Law, with music by Mr. Alfred J. Caldicott, and *A Peculiar Case*, by the same author, with music by Mr. George Grossmith, in which Miss Fanny Holland, Mr. Alfred Reed, Miss Marion Wardroper, Mr. Charles Allan, and Mr. North Home appear. Messrs. Maskelyne and Cooke have provided a varied and amusing entertainment, which daily attract large audiences to the Egyptian Hall. The programme includes a sketch, entitled *The Fakirs of Benares*, into which some ingenious illusions are introduced of the kind which is the special feature of these entertainments.

Ecclesiastical.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. E. H. Bickersteth, Vicar of Christ Church, Hampstead, to be Dean of Gloucester. Patron, the Queen.

Rev. E. Child, Curate of New Alresford, to Rectory of Allington. Patron, the Earl of Craven.

Rev. A. Clark, to Vicarage of All Saints', Oxford. Patrons, Lincoln College, Oxford.

Rev. R. S. Gregory, to be Chaplain of Edmonton Cemetery.

Rev. W. Hutchinson, Rector of Blurton, to be Prebendary of Curborough in Lichfield Cathedral. Patron, the Bishop of Lichfield.

Rev. E. C. Lucey, Vicar of St. Margaret's-at-Cliff, near Dover, to Rectory of Mersham, near Ashford. Patron, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Rev. J A. Naylor, to be Minor Canon in Ripon Cathedral.

Rev. G. D. Ommanney, Vicar of Draycott, to be Prebendary of Whitchurch in Wells Cathedral.

Rev. N. Poyntz, to Rectory of Stone. Patron, the Bishop of Lichfield.

Rev. W. L. Prothero, to Vicarage of Pontblyddyn. Patron, the Vicar of Mold.

Rev. T. Major Rees, to Vicarage of Cum, Flintshire.

Rev. H. Robeson, Vicar of Tewkesbury, to be Residentiary Canonry of Bristol Cathedral. Patron, the Lord Chancellor.

Rev. G. H. Sumner, Rector of Old Alresford, Rural Dean of Alresford, Honorary Canon of Winchester, to be Archdeacon of Winchester. Patron, the Bishop of Winchester.

Licences to Curacies by the Bishop of London.—Revs. Herbert A. Birks, to St. Mary, Hornsey-rise; Henry B. Bromby, to St. Bartholomew-the-Great, City; John C. W. Burnaby, to St. Peter, Eaton-square; Thomas A. A. Chirol, to St. John-the-Baptist, Greenhill, Harrow; William E. Cleworth, to St. Mary, Spring-grove, Isleworth; Thomas Collisson, to St. Jude, South Kensington; David Evans, to Allhallows, Great Tower-street; Thomas H. Foulkes, to St. Paul, Brentford; Edward H. Hodges, to Camden-town; Henry de Vere Hunt, to Littleton; Reginald Letts, to St. Ann, Stamford-hill; Lewis T. Lochée, to St. Mary, Graham-street, Pimlico; Percy W. Myles, to St. Stephen, Ealing; Frederic Robinson, to St. Mary, Charterhouse; William E. Rosedale and Edmonde H. C. Stephenson, to St. Clement, Notting-hill; Henry M. Walter, to Grosvenor Chapel; Rupert E. Washer, to Heaton.

Licences to Curacies by the Bishop of Chester.—Revs. Joseph Holt, to St. Catherine's, Tranmere; Francis William Woodward, M.A., to St. Peter's, Stockport.

Licence to Curacy by the Bishop of Lichfield.—Rev. Robert R. Young, to Hamstead-in-Handsworth.

Licence to Curacy by the Bishop of Salisbury.—Rev. William Ernest Youngman, to Pewsey.

OBITUARY.

Dec. 16, at Norwich, the Rev. C. B. Leupolt, Rector of Brampton, for forty years Church Missionary at Benares, aged 79.

Dec. 22, at Wickham Market, the Rev. George Henry Porter, M.A., Rector of Marlesford, Suffolk, aged 75.

Dec. 25, at White Roothing Rectory, the Rev. Jacob Hugo North, M.A., Rector, formerly Incumbent of St. George's Chapel, Brighton, aged 72.

Dec. 25, at Middleton Vicarage, Tamworth, the Rev. Henry Vere Hodge, aged 80.

Dec. 27, at 18, Wharton-street, W.C., the Rev. Frederick Cresswell, Curate of St. John's, Clerkenwell.

Dec. 31, at Bridlington, the Rev. Richard Paul Blakeney, D.D., LL.D., Vicar of Bridlington and Rural Dean, and Canon of York, aged 64.

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint the Rev. E. H. Bickersteth, Vicar of Christ Church, Hampstead, to the vacant Deanery of Gloucester. Mr. Bickersteth, like the late Dr. Law, whom he succeeds, is a prominent member of the Evangelical or Low Church party, and has been Vicar of Christ Church, Hampstead, for close upon thirty years. He is the author of many religious works, of which the best known is *Yesterday, To-day, and For Ever; a Poem in Twelve Books*. Mr. Bickersteth is very nearly sixty years of age, having been born on the 25th of January, 1825. At Cambridge, where he entered at Trinity College, he was three times Chancellor's English Medallist, and obtained the Seatonian Prize. The patronage of the living which he vacates, and which is valued at £730, is vested in trustees, but on this occasion it lapses to the Crown, according to the rule which prevails on the appointment of incumbents to Bishoprics and Deaneries.

The Lord Chancellor has appointed the Rev. Remming Robeson, vicar of Tewkesbury, to the canonry of Bristol, vacant by the death of Canon Girdlestone. Mr. Robeson was a scholar of Balliol College, Oxford, where he took a second class in Lit. Hum., and was Chancellor's Prizeman for Latin Essay. He was curate of Bray, Berkshire, vicar of Walton, near Cardiff, and of Forthampton, Gloucestershire. In 1874 he was appointed to the vicarage of Mildenhall, Suffolk, a scattered parish, which he worked very efficiently, establishing school-chapels in distant hamlets. In 1878 the Lord Chancellor (Lord Cairns) appointed him to the vicarage of Tewkesbury, where he has done a good work in restoring and utilising the magnificent Abbey Church. Mr. Robeson is a High Churchman.

The Bishop of Winchester has conferred the Canonry of Winchester, vacant by the death of

Archdeacon Jacob, on the Rev. William Parsons Warburton, Honorary Canon of Winchester, one of his examining chaplains, and proctor for the Dean and Chapter of Winchester in Convocation. He took a first-class in Lit. Hum. in 1840 at Oxford, where he was at Balliol, and subsequently a Fellow of All Souls. He has published several historical works, but has been chiefly known as for thirty years one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools and subsequently of training colleges. Canon Warburton is a moderate High Churchman.

We are glad to learn that the illness of the Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral has been greatly exaggerated, and the statements that the Dean has been suffering from gout in the throat and from inflammation of the lungs are entirely without foundation. The Dean has had a cold, and the rawness of the weather kept him for a few days from attending the Cathedral services, but on Tuesday he was present both at the morning and evening services.

Both Houses of the Southern Convocation will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 10, for the despatch of business.

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners have increased the endowment for the new parish of "The Ascension," which comprises the Shaftesbury-park Estate, and has a population of 10,000, chiefly of artisans, to £300 a year, not £150, as has been stated. The Commissioners having voted £1,500 towards the cost of a vicarage, it will be needful to obtain from other sources £500 in order to house the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, who has now remained without a residence for eleven years.

Notwithstanding the great distress in the shipping trade, the Missions to Seamen's Bankers, Messrs. Ransom, Bouverie, and Co., have received during the year ending the 31st ult., £1,281 more than in the previous year. This has enabled the Missions to Seamen to minister the more effectually to the large numbers of seamen on shore out of work, who have consequently been for longer periods than usual under the teachings of the Missions to Seamen chaplains and readers.

The Rev. Richard Paul Blakeney, D.D., Vicar of Bridlington and Rural Dean and Canon of York, died at Bridlington Rectory on Wednesday, congestion of the windpipe being the cause of death. Dr. Blakeney, who was 64 years of age, was a member of an old Norfolk family which settled in Ireland. He graduated at Dublin University, took his divinity testimonium in the first class of the tripos, and was ordained in 1843 to the curacy of St. Paul's, Nottingham. At the age of 44 he translated and published extracts from the *Moral Theology* of Alphonsus Liguori. He was the author of a Protestant catechism and manual which have passed through many editions. In 1865 Dr. Blakeney published his large work on *The History and Interpretations of the Book of Common Prayer*, which has been adopted in some of the colonies as a class book for the use of candidates for holy orders. In 1868 the Senatus Academicus of the University of Edinburgh conferred on Dr. Blakeney the degree of D.D.

At All Saints', Lambeth, both the Advent and Christmas seasons have been duly observed. A series of Advent sermons and meditations were given on the Wednesday and Friday evenings, with other special services. On Christmas Eve the first evensong of Christmas, followed by a midnight celebration, most beautifully and carefully sung by a full choir, was the chief service of the evening. The vicar (Dr. Lee) preached, explaining fully the true Christian idea of Christmas, and stated, as a practical fact, that no less than 345 persons had received temporal relief from the parochial fund. There was a considerable congregation gathered, which fairly filled the nave. Two other celebrations took place on Christmas Day, one at 8 a.m., and the third, the High Service, being said at 11.30. This was immediately followed by solemn evensong, thus leaving the rest of the day for social intercourse and home festivities.

The Bishop of Worcester having been presented with his portrait as a testimonial from the clergy and laity of the diocese of the admirable manner in which he has presided over his diocese for nearly a quarter of a century, in his letter to Lord Leigh acknowledging the gift, referred to the subject of the increase of Bishoprics. He would not, he said, personally object to the division of the Diocese of Worcester; but, he added, he was not much in favour of the multiplication of Bishoprics. When he considered the other wants of the Church, he thought the multiplication of Bishoprics was a subordinate thing. He thought there should be increased endowments for the poorer clergy, and if anything like a capital sum could be got together to help the clergy to insure their lives, or if any provision could be made for enabling the clergy who were past work to retire from their cures, it would be a desirable thing. He especially referred to Birmingham as wanting additional clergy, churches, and mission rooms.

The will of the late Dean of Gloucester has been proved, the personalty being sworn under £16,000. This sum, after the deduction of £1,500 left in legacies to servants and others, charged with the payment of £300 a year to three of his relatives, is bequeathed to the Rev. George James, Rector of St. Michael's, Gloucester, who, with his family, had resided with the late Dean for many years.

The annual summary of British contributions to societies devoted to missionary work in foreign parts has lately been completed by Canon Scott Robertson, vicar of Throwley. It shows that the total sums voluntarily given in the British Isles to such societies during the year 1883-4 were as follows:—Church of England societies, £491,647; joint societies of Churchmen and Nonconformists, £182,085; English and Welsh Nonconformist societies, £341,046; Scotch and Irish Presbyterian societies, £193,208; Roman Catholic societies, £8,544. The total British contributions for 1883-4 being £1,216,530. This total, which exceeds that of any previous year, does not include income from investments nor balances in hand at the commencement of the year, nor any foreign contributions.

The Bishop of Liverpool has appointed the 21st inst. for the consecration of the new church of St. Agnes, Liverpool, built from designs of Mr. Pearson by Mr. H. Douglas Horsfall in memory of his father, who built St. Margaret's, Princes-road. The preachers during the octave will be the Bishops of Durham and Chester, the Dean of Manchester, the Archdeacon of Taunton, Canon Body, Canon Knox Little, and Canon Hole, the Warden of Clewer, the Rev. W. H. Lucas, the Rev. A. H. Mackonochie, the Rev. R. H. Randall, and Father Black.

On Innocents' Day there was also a special service in the nave of Peterborough Cathedral, at which upwards of fifteen hundred children from the city and neighbourhood were present. There was also an immense gathering of adults. A catechetical address was given by the Rev. W. C. Ingram, vicar of St. Matthew's, Leicester, upon Proverbs xxx. 24, and following verses. The choir of upwards of a hundred voices consisted entirely of boys from the Cathedral and neighbouring churches, and the effect of so large a body of children's voices in the well-known children's hymns was extremely touching.

In this age of conferences, no diocese seems complete without one. In colonial dioceses they afford the only means of consensual compact on which the diocesan organisation must rest. We may, therefore, regard these as necessary and solid marks of improvement and progress in the right direction. In this light special interest attaches to the third session of the Synod of the Diocese of Pretoria, which commenced on Sunday, November 16, and closed on Sunday, the 23rd, in both cases with, and during, the Service for the Holy Communion. After the Nicene Creed, the opening and closing were formally proclaimed by the Bishop, in the former case after calling the Synod roll. These forms are required by the diocesan canons, which are by some considered creditable both to the diocese and the draughtsmen. The business transacted chiefly concerned the diocese alone. Before the close an address was delivered to the Bishop in view of his contemplated visit to England. On the following (Advent) Sunday the Rev. T. W. Kenley was licensed, during Divine Service, as curate of Pretoria, and thereupon, according to an arrangement made when the church was declared the Cathedral, installed as a Canon.

At Westminster Abbey the preachers for this month will be:—4th—at ten, the Rev. Edwin Price. 6th (Epiphany)—at three, Canon Westcott. 11th—at ten, the Rev. J. Llewelyn Davies. 18th—at ten, the Rev. H. W. Watson, rector of Berkeswell. 25th—at ten, the Rev. F. K. Harford. Canon Westcott will preach each Sunday at 3 p.m. On Monday, 12th, Holy Communion at 7.30 a.m., and special service, with address by the Rev. J. H. Lester, at 7.30 p.m., on preparation for the West London Mission.

At the Chapel Royal, Whitehall, the preachers for this month will be:—4th and 11th—morning and afternoon, the Rev. J. J. Lias. 18th—morning (S.P.G.), ———; afternoon, the Sub-Dean. 25th—morning and afternoon, the Rev. W. W. Merry.

The following are the preachers at St. Paul's Cathedral appointed for the present month:—January 4, morning the Rev. Prebendary Leathes, rector of Cliffe-at-Hoo, Dover; evening, the Bishop of London. January 11, morning, the Rev. A. J. Robinson, rector of Whitechapel; evening, the Rev. J. I. Brooke, rector of Thornhill, York. January 18, morning, the Rev. Dr. Forrest, chaplain to the Lord Mayor; evening, the Rev. Gordon Calthrop, vicar of St. Augustine's, Highbury. January 25, morning, the Rev. W. J. Hall; evening, the Bishop of Chester. The Rev H. Scott Hollond, being the Canon in residence for the month, will occupy the pulpit on Sunday afternoons.

The Rev. Dr. Westcott, during his month of residence at Westminster Abbey, will continue his lectures on the Revised Version of the New Testament, in the choir of the Abbey, on Wednesdays, January 7, 14, 21, and 28, at 3.45 p.m.

A lych-gate has been erected at the entrance of Broadchalke Church by Mrs. Rowland Williams, in fulfilment of the intentions of her late husband and as a lasting memorial of his eleven years' tenure of the benefice. The gate is of English oak and stands upon walls of wrought Chilmark stone. It faces south, and the upper panels on the east and west are pierced with three open lights; below them are seats for the wayfarer. The outside measurement shows a width of 8ft. 10in., and a height of 15ft. to the ridge, exclusive of a simple cross of the Perpendicular type. The two sides are 7ft. 4in. high by 6ft. 6in. wide, and the whole is surmounted by a massive timber roof covered with oak shingles and having eaves of 14in. On the tranverse beam facing south, "For the weary rest," is carved in large, and not too ornate letters, and on the north the date, "Erected 1884." On the inside beams, and running all round, is the inscription, "Ye who pass through this gate, think of those whose gift it is—Rowland Williams, and Ellen his wife." Finally, a very beautiful lamp has been added, harmonising in design with the rest of the work and giving it completeness. Many difficulties had to be overcome before this gate could be erected, owing to the fact that some old cottages occupied the site, and it was doubtful whether they could be removed during the lifetime of the occupants. It was only through the liberality of Lord Pembroke that they were taken down and the ground cleared. The architect is Mr. W. W. Bethell, of Queen Anne's-gate.

A committee has been formed for the purpose of raising a memorial to the late Bishop Piers Claughton, and an appeal has been made to the public, in which reference is made to the Right Rev. Prelate's success as a tutor at University College, Oxford, to his earnest labours at Elton as a country clergyman, to his gentle rule in his two dioceses of St. Helena and Colombo, to his arduous exertions for thirteen years as Assistant-Bishop and Archdeacon in the diocese of London, as well as to his conscientious discharge of the important duties of Chaplain-General of Her Majesty's Forces for a period of more than nine years.

An examination of the church at Welford-on-Avon shows that the fire was confined principally to the tower; and that consequently the Early Norman pillars and arches in the nave are in no way damaged. The contents of the tower were completely destroyed, and it will be necessary to take down several feet of the tower and rebuild it. The broken bells will be recast into a new peal, and a new clock added. It has been ascertained that the night before the fire the bell-ringers, notwithstanding that the rector had given orders that the work should be done by daylight, went into the belfry to oil the bells, and whilst there struck several matches. One of these was no doubt dropped among the loose matting.

The chancel screen at St. Saviour's, Pimlico, was dedicated on Christmas Eve. The choir, with the Revs. J. Walker (Vicar), T. Simpson-Jones, A. H. Powell, and J. S. M. Walker, entered the church singing Psalm xxiv. to a Gregorian tone. On their arrival at the gates, which had been subscribed for by the Penny Association, Mr. Francis Hales, the Treasurer, handed the key to the Vicar, who formally opened them, and afterwards gave a brief address. Evensong and carols followed. The gates and screen, which are of wrought iron, were designed by Mr. Romaine-Walker.

Colonel Brooksbank has added two bells to Middleton church (St. Andrew's). Two out of the peal of three bells were placed in the tower seven years ago at the expense of Mrs. Brooksbank. There are now five bells, and a dedicatory service was recently conducted by the Rev. H. D. Blanchard, the rector, the service consisting of that approved by the Bishop of Peterborough.

A memorial window, presented by Councillor Thomas Rose in memory of his father, the chief superintendent of the Manchester Fire Brigade, has been placed in the chapel of the Holy Trinity in Manchester Cathedral. The screen lights in the window are filled with a reproduction of Raffaelle's renowned cartoon of the Ascension, which was formerly in Hampton Court Palace and is now in the South Kensington Museum.

A special service in connection with the forthcoming West London Mission will be held in Westminster Abbey on the 12th inst., at 7.30 p.m., with an address by the Rev. J. H. Lester. The preachers for the month will be as follows:—January 4, the Rev. Edwin Price; 11, the Rev. J. Ll. Davies, rector of Christchurch, Marylebone; 18, the Rev. Dr. Watson, rector of Berkeswell, Warwick; 25, the Rev. F. K. Harford. Canon Westcott will occupy the pulpit on Sunday afternoon and also on the afternoons of January 1 and 6.

A beautiful stained glass window has been placed in the church of St. Michael's, Louth, the subject of which is "To Thee all angels cry aloud." The whole of the lights are filled with adoring angels, except the top, which contains the *Agnus Dei*. The window has been given by the congregation in memory of one who was an active worker in the parish, and the design is most successfully carried out by Messrs. Mayer and Co., of Munich and New Bond-street.

A selection of carols was given at Westminster Abbey after the afternoon service on Monday. The service was attended by a crowded congregation, who were gratified by hearing Purcell's fine anthem "Behold I bring good tidings" rendered in an admirable manner by Dr. Bridge on the superb new organ. The carols, which were sung by the choir with extreme taste and power, included one by an unnamed German composer, "Good Christian men rejoice," Sir A. Sullivan's "Hark! what mean those holy voices," Dr. Bridge's "The Morning Star," a traditional hymn, "When the crimson sun," Mr. J. F. Barrett's "The Shepherds went their hasty way," a traditional carol entitled "The First Nowell" (Noel), and a new carol which has been composed by Dr. Bridge to words by Archdeacon Farrar, "In sorrow and in want," and which is a charming and scholarly piece of music.

A faculty has been granted by the Bishop of London for extensive alterations in the church of St. John, Westminster, of which Canon Furse is rector. The work will include the removal of the pulpit and reading-desk from their position in front of the altar, the substitution of open seats for the present cumbrous and uncomfortable pews, and the alteration of the heating apparatus. The galleries will not at present be removed. Mr. Butterfield has supplied the designs, and the cost is estimated at £800.

A beautiful and costly chapel, which has been erected for the use of the students at St. John's Hall, Islington, at the expense of Miss Peache, of Wimbledon, has been formally dedicated by the Bishop of London. The college known as St. John's Hall was founded and endowed by Miss Peache and her brother, the Rev. Alfred Peache, in 1863 for the training of clergymen in the "Evangelical and Protestant" principles of the Church of England. The chapel, which is of the usual collegiate character, has been erected from the designs of Mr. Ewan Christian.

A new mission church has been opened at St. Mawes, near Falmouth, by the Bishop of Truro. The building is Early English in character, and has been erected at a cost of £1,500 from designs by the Rev. C. W. Carlyon, rector of the parish.

The Bishop of Newcastle yesterday week consecrated a church dedicated to St. George, at Cullercoats, Newcastle, erected at a cost of £21,000, "to the glory of God, and in memory of his beloved father, George, the fifth Duke of Northumberland, by Algernon George, sixth duke of Northumberland," as stated in a tablet in the west end of the church. The Duke of Northumberland, at a subsequent luncheon, urged the necessity of those worshipping in the church contributing liberally to its support, and the Bishop of Newcastle said that he hoped there would be a turn in the shadow of depression which was clogging the wheels of the commercial chariot and finding its way into our agricultural homes, so that there might be once again merriness and happiness in England.

The Rev. Prebendary Wood has resigned the incumbency of Christ Church, Bath, to which he was appointed in 1842 by the then rector of Walcot, before the living fell into the hands of the Simeon trustees. Mr. Wood was identified with the old-fashioned High Church school, and was one of the first to recognise the evils of the pew system, which was the universal practice in Bath at the time of his appointment. He threw open the seats in the body of the church, rearranged the eastern portion, and erected stalls for an (unsurpliced) choir of men and boys at a time when such matters were regarded as innovations. Mr. Wood was for some time Rural Dean of Keynsham, and was appointed Prebendary of Wedmore, the fourth in Wells Cathedral, in 1874. A movement is on foot for presenting him with a testimonial on his retirement from Christ Church, but he has characteristically declined to accept "teapots or inkstands," or any personal presentation.

In the course of the restoration of the tower of Sherborne Abbey Church, which is now proceeding, an interesting discovery of Norman arcading has been made. It appears that an arcade or gallery originally ran round the four tower arches, from which a view of the floor of the Abbey could be obtained. The gallery was, however, found at a later period to constitute a source of weakness, and it was therefore filled in with stonework, thereby depriving the arches of the graceful and elegant effect contemplated by the designer. This filling up has now been removed, but it is questionable if security can be ensured without again blocking up the arcade. Upwards of £2,000 has been already promised towards the work of restoration, and it is estimated that a further sum of £1,600 will be needed.

Extensive alterations are in progress at the parish church of Alverstoke, Hants, including the reseating and enlargement of the building, whereby 300 additional sittings will be provided. The rebuilding of the belfry tower is postponed for the present from lack of funds. In response to an appeal in the local parish magazine a number of special offerings have been promised by various donors, including a white frontal and office books for the altar, two stained glass windows, candelabra for the chancel, &c.

From an official return just made up it appears that since the constitution of the See of Manchester in 1848 there have been consecrated 211 new churches, erected at a cost (exclusive of endowments and cost of sites) of £1,136,573; of these 110 were consecrated by Bishop Lee and the remainder by the present Bishop. In addition to these churches forty new ones have been consecrated, which replaced old ones, at a cost of £305,025. The churches contain 134,146 sittings, of which 86,772 are free and unappropriated. Nineteen more churches are expected to be consecrated in 1885.

The chancel of St. Andrew's Church, Ashley-place, Victoria-street, which has been closed now for some weeks, is to be reopened to-morrow (Sunday). The new work includes a beautiful oak reredos, richly decorated, in which are inserted pictures painted on panels representing the Crucifixion, the Adoration of the Magi, the Resurrection, and the Last Supper. In the smaller panels are painted the figures of saints—St. Andrew for the church, St. Margaret for the mother parish, St. Peter for Westminster, and St. Paul for London. On either side of the lower central panel are carved figures representing David and Isaiah. Upon either side of the reredos, and reaching to the altar rails, in place of the old and faded hangings there is now oak panelling with carved sedilia upon the south side. The floor has been rearranged and the whole paved with black and white marble in large squares, with steps of solid grey Cumberland marble, full of fossils, which greatly add to the general effect, while from the tie beam of the lofty roof above the rails there hang two gilded circular lights, which serve to illuminate not only the reredos but the whole choir. The entire work, costing something like £1,000, has been paid for within the past year. A part—the pictures in the reredos—has been given by friends in memory of the late Mrs. William Paget, and the rest has been contributed by those interested in the church work carried on at St. Andrew's. The work now completed is understood to be only an instalment of what is already planned for 1885. The work of erecting new oak choir stalls and repairing the choir is to be proceeded with as soon as possible. The whole has been designed and carried out by Mr. J. Oldine Scott, son of the late Sir Gilbert Scott, who built the church in 1854. Sermons will be preached at the reopening to-morrow—in the morning by the Rev. A. Gerald Bowman, vicar, and in the evening by the Rev. Canon Farrar, Archdeacon of Westminster, and Rural Dean. A short service of Christmas carols will take place after the evening service.

The annual service for children was held in Westminster Abbey on Saturday, the Eve of Holy Innocents' Day, when the Dean preached the sermon, taking for his text the words "And a little child shall lead them." The Dean read and explained the passage in Isaiah in which the saying occurs, and treating the picture drawn by the prophet as a parable, proceeded to show how the truth in the prophecy was in some sort exemplified in the life and reign of Edward the Confessor. Reminding them that this mild and merciful king built an earlier church there more that 800 years ago, which was dedicated when the king was on his deathbed on Innocents' Day, 1065, and that his bones lay in the most sacred part of this present stately church, which was erected very much for the express purpose of doing honour to his memory, the preacher told his little hearers how the gentleness and character for charity of the king had moved the hearts of rough, bold men, conquerors and warriors, of his own and succeeding generations, so that they held it the highest honour to be buried near his tomb. Many stories were told about him, some doubtless with a foundation of fact, and others scarcely more true than fairy tales, but showing how the memory of mercy to the weak and poor, which was so rare in those rude and savage times when "England was like a sheepfold which had been given over to the lions and wolves," had been cherished in the hearts of the people. A record of some of these traditions might be found rudely sculptured in stone on monuments in the Abbey. Selecting three or four of those stories in which a meaning intelligible to children might be found, he related the legend of the king perceiving a cruel demon, who was invisible to others, seated on his chests filled with treasure wrung from the poor in the heavy taxes imposed to raise money for shipbuilding and to pay sailors to fight the Danes. Another popular story was of the kindness of the king in forgiving a thievish scullion and screening him from the cruel punishment which his crime would have brought upon him in those days if Hugolin, the treasurer, had discovered him. Other stories about the Confessor's goodness to the weak and miserable led the Dean, in conclusion, to ask the young listeners to think of hundreds and hundreds of poor children to whom Christmas brought no pleasure and no joy. There were numbers of little ones who had to trudge daily to school without breakfast and to learn their lessons having scarcely food enough to keep them alive. There were no roses in their faces; no laughter was heard from their lips. They were wan and sickly and old in look before they had grown out of childhood. But there were good people who were doing what they could to enable these poor children to get at least one substantial meal a day at a cost of one penny, and he asked their contributions to assist in this good work. The offertory was devoted to the Destitute Children's Dinner Society.

The exertions of Miss Ellice Hopkins, and the active support of the Bishops of Durham and Lichfield, and other prelates, have caused great progress to be made in the North by the Church of England Purity Society, whose shorter title is the White Cross Army. Miss Hopkins first addressed a large meeting during the Church Congress at Derby, but since then she has spoken at large open meetings of working men and others in the county of Durham and elsewhere. Perhaps the most remarkable success was, when a few days ago she addressed some hundreds of students of Edinburgh University at a meeting under the presidency of Professor Maclagan, a brother of the Bishop of Lichfield. "As Miss Hopkins advanced," says a Scotch professor, "to the edge of the platform, and stood fronting that roaring sea of young faces, it was doubtful which way the meeting would go, and whether she could control such explosive materials. But she had only spoken a few minutes when it became perfectly apparent how the experiment would turn out. A few faces in the middle of the room which meant mischief gradually subsided into an earnest, almost pathetic gaze. The applause was checked before it became uproar, and by the time she had finished an address remarkable for its home-thrusting and hard-hitting character, I believe that if she had asked them to storm Edinburgh Castle they would have gone in a body and done it." Some hundreds of members were enrolled, so that the Edinburgh University White Cross Society now stands ahead of that of Oxford. Mr. Samuel Smith, M.P., presiding last week at a meeting at Liverpool on behalf of the society, expressed his hearty sympathy with its object. The hon. member said that when he looked round on the state of society and considered the tone of public opinion on the subject of social purity, he thought that it was high time they should, clergy and laity alike, bestir themselves in the matter. He especially deprecated the influence of many French plays which of recent years had come in like a pestilence, while he also thought there was a distinct decadence in the tone of our light literature, and he also deplored the exhibition of indecent pictures in shop-windows and the indelicate character of ladies' dress.

The announcement that for the future the Temple Church will be open free to visitors daily (except Saturdays) will possibly not be so fully appreciated by the London public as it deserves to be. At present (says the *St. James's Gazette*) altogether too little is known in a general way of this beautiful and interesting building, which is the only true relic left of the residence of the Knights Templars in the two Inns of Court. The old archway that leads from the west into the church is in itself a magnificent specimen of Norman architecture; while the Round Church (built in 1185) is the most complete and the largest of the four extant in England. Of these Round Churches, which were built after the model of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, the other three are at Cambridge, Northampton, and Maplestead. This portion of the Temple Church, it may be interesting to know, was consecrated by Heraclius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, when he came to England to ask aid from Henry II. against the conquering Saladin. The inner portion of the church was built fifty-five years later; and the two form a most interesting illustration of the transition stage from the Norman to the Early English style of architecture. There is, in fact, no more beautiful specimen of the latter "pointed" style in the country than the "Rectangular Church" of the Temple. The whole building, which was carefully restored at a cost of £70,000 in 1845, is full of most interesting detail. Now that access to this historic edifice is to be gained without long waiting and subsequent feeing of vergers and beadles, it is possible that it will become a more favourite "object of interest" to the country cousin, and possibly even to the average Londoner himself, who is of all men the most callous to the archæological and historical memorials of this metropolis.

The service at St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday afternoon, being in the octave of Christmas, was of a festal character throughout, and included Sullivan's anthem "In Ramah was a voice heard," the "Adeste Fideles," and a Christmas carol, "A virgin unspotted the Prophet foretold." Canon Liddon chose for his text, "What I do thou knowest not now, but shalt know hereafter." He said that these words, spoken by One more than man, kneeling at St. Peter's feet on the eve of his crucifixion, had a much wider scope than the occasion which prompted them seemed to suggest, and, having given an account of the circumstances under which they were uttered, he proceeded to apply them to the murder of the Innocents by Herod, which the Church commemorated that day. The preacher observed that, while Herod showed considerable courage and promptitude in his public career, his domestic life was stained with blood, so that there was too much justice in the remark attributed by a later writer to Augustus, that "it was better to be Herod's statue than his son." It was in one of his indiscriminate outbursts of vindictiveness that he gave the order for the slaying of the Innocents, which was too faithfully executed by soldiers who knew that it was dangerous to trifle with their master. The event appeared to attract little attention at Jerusalem, and none at Rome, and much had been made of the fact that Josephus did not mention it. To say nothing of the fact that arguments from the silence of an author were most unsatisfactory, Josephus had probably good reasons of his own for not mentioning it, and allowance might well be made for him if he considered the slaughter of Bethlehem as compared with larger tragedies elsewhere in the empire as unimportant. Probably the actual number of children killed did not exceed twenty, only a third of the number of orphans destroyed by fire a short time ago at Brooklyn, in the United States; but the hacking to death of innocent children by a brutal soldiery before their mothers' eyes raised the question, always old, and yet new, which intelligent children asked when told the story — How is such a history to be adjusted with the belief in the rule of the world by an Allwise God? That evil existed everywhere, in us, and around, could not be denied, and it could not exist without God's permission. Why did He allow it? In order that man might be endowed with the gift of moral freedom, and of freely choosing the supreme good, which he could not do unless he was capable of refusing it. Having dwelt on the tremendous price paid for our glorious liberty and the dreadful consequences which follow from the existence of evil, Canon Liddon spoke of the intensity with which God hated evil, which, allowed to be aggressive and buoyant, was worked on, as the history of Joseph, Moses, David, St. Peter, and others showed, for His purposes, and made to minister to a purpose which men did not intend. He then passed on to show how Christianity differed from all systems of infidelity in having to deal with pain, sin, and death. Seneca, when consoling a lady in extreme agony of mind, could only urge her to try and forget her troubles; but Christians learning practical philosophy in the school of the Apostles are taught that whether pain blesses or scourges depends largely on themselves. Pain, the preacher said, taught dependence on God, showed love, reveals the real feeling and worth of them around us, disciplines the will, softens the heart, and is the great school of hope. If, however, the above view is the true Christian philosophy of pain as regards adults, how can such a view be applied to infant suffering? They have not entered on responsibility, and seem to us to suffer without a defined purpose. The answer is that God deals with the great human family as a whole, and that some suffering is distinctly inherited, and traceable to sins of a previous generation. The truth was, however, that we knew very imperfectly, or not at all, the mystery of infant life, and that the suffering of infants was one of those things of which the text promised a future knowledge. Canon Liddon then gave an interesting sketch of the sufferings of Louis XVII., left in prison when his parents had been put to death. His sufferings as described by contemporary documents recently published by a French scholar were fearful. Though only eight years old he had an understanding beyond his years, and his countenance showed an excellent disposition which at once interested strangers. Yet the cruel governor crushed out the poor child's life by depriving him at one time of his scanty fare, then by making him drunk against his will, and then depriving him of his sleep. The child belonged to a House which had its share of faults, but yet one that had made France a nation, and the tragical fate of such an innocent of history was an argument for the immortality of justice after death. In conclusion, the preacher said that the text had a peculiar significance on the last Sunday of a year which had been no common one in the history of their country, and might hereafter be considered as the beginning of a new epoch. The great measure accepted, or rather promoted, by those who do not often act together, means that power has been conferred on two millions of English people who never wielded it before. It was pregnant with consequences as to which there were many prophecies—some hopeful, some desponding. Though a general retrospect of such a legislative act was not appropriate in that place, it could not be wrong to express a hope that what had been brought about now by harmonious action, now by rude collision, might have in the future not less bountiful results though different from the past. As we look back on the closing year and catch the accents of familiar and authoritative voices which silence discussion while inviting our confidence, we feel that the scene of life is sensibly changing. One kindly figure had disappeared from the Cathedral, old men were falling into the background, and young men were taking their places; some had discovered the presence of a disease which must soon terminate their earthy career; and happy was he who was unmoved by evil tidings, because his heart standeth fast and believeth in the Lord. One thing among all uncertainties is sure—namely, that a strong and loving Hand is over us—not less strong because of our feebleness, not less loving because it does not permit us to see our path; and we may with confidence leave to Him the shaping of our future life, our supreme duty being to obey His guidance in things great and small, dwelling in His light till the day break and the shadows flee away.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL.

The following letter from Sir Edmund Beckett appeared in the *Times* on Monday:—

"I am sorry to say the Dean of Peterborough is too ill to write to you, as he wished, in order to inform the subscribers to the restoration of the tower of the extraordinary position into which they have been brought by the action of practically a single Canon, who is determined to defy the whole committee through which and on the credit of which the subscriptions have been got and promised. The Dean accordingly asks me to write for him, as I was his nominee among the so-called 'experts' who were invited to meet the Chapter on December 1, when only one other came, and I believe no others have even seen the designs. The one who did come, though not agreeing with me as to the higher parts of the tower, did not support Canon Argles, though he was his nominee, but brought a visionary tower and spire of his own. Of course, I do not mean the Dean to be responsible for what I am going to say. From my own knowledge of the papers and designs, the following facts appear upon them beyond all dispute.

"1. All the subscriptions until quite lately, after a few initial ones, have been got upon a circular issued in February, 1883, which says that 'A committee has been formed of some of the principal clergy and laity of the diocese.' It is signed by two lay members of it, and headed 'The Dean and Chapter desire to make the following statement and appeal;' and the names are given and consist of all the Cathedral clergy except Minor Canons, and the mayor and fourteen county gentlemen. And the question now is whether two successive large majorities, the last exactly three to one (as the chairman's opinion was well known) of this considerable body, set up by the Chapter itself to give confidence to the public, is to be overridden by nominally three Canons, and practically one, who never in my hearing for two hours attempted to give one single architectural or practical reason for persisting in his opposition, nor has published any yet, though he has published circulars and letters enough.

"2. He has, indeed, published a defence of himself on these unlucky grounds. First, that the subscriptions were promised expressly for the rebuilding of the tower as it was, and somebody sent you a paragraph a month or so ago to the effect that the Bishop had threatened to withdraw his subscription if that condition were not followed, which I have good reason for saying that I utterly disbelieve, and he would be legally in a scrape if he did, like Lord Cowper at St. Albans. At our meeting, where I saw some of the documents for the first time, I invited the two Canons who were inclined to take that ground to point out a single sentence to that effect in any circular on which subscriptions had been got; and I read the only one of that kind slowly over to them in order that they might do so, and they did not even try. So there is an end of that pretext. We shall see a little more against it afterwards.

"3. Canon Argles then resorted to the contract with the builder, and there he was even more unfortunate, for it actually contains a power for the Chapter (who are here in the position of a faculty committee as the only persons who can legally make the contract) to stop the work at any point. What for? Clearly not for want of money, for there was more than enough promised for the mere building of a copy of the late tower; but for the obvious purpose of enabling the design to be modified when the piers should be rebuilt, which would take about a year, as they have. And to my certain knowledge some modification had been contemplated from the beginning, though very likely not by Canon Argles and his two followers. The fourth Canon evidently does not want to fight. So one would turn the scale.

"4. In a circular which he issued just before our meeting he speaks himself of the contract having been already modified to include more rebuilding than was at first provided for, and admits the subsequent discovery of the Norman arcading or triforium above the great arches. And then he says that 'last August Mr. Pearson had voluntarily furnished a new design for a very lofty tower' (simply the old *tres historiæ* of the Norman triforium, a Norman lantern story above the roofs, and the old Decorated story on top of that, to which he very unwisely added a spire besides). and Canon Argles says, 'with no definite recommendation or estimate.' Here, too, he has had his usual bad luck, for Mr. Pearson replied, in the *Guardian* of December 17, that 'it is a very incorrect statement of the facts, for the raising of the tower had been constantly spoken of in connection with the rebuilding of the piers, and he had been directed in August, 1883 (not last August, observe), to prepare a design for increasing the height of the tower, and he had appended to his report an estimate of the probable cost of adding an extra stage'—*i.e.*, the Norman lantern story just now spoken of. If anybody cares to read Canon Argles's attempt to get over this very unpleasant contradiction by referring to the contract they will find it in the *Guardian* of December 24, and a lamer story nobody ever read, except perhaps in a law court, where some defence must be made unless you mean to plead guilty.

"5. The committee and the Chapter have the bad habit of issuing their circulars undated, and so I had to inquire about the dates. The latest one that I have seen appealing for subscriptions expressly mentioned 'the raising of the tower as having been recommended by Mr. Pearson' and without a word of dissent of their own. It is not very happily expressed, I must say, for they have made it grammatically to follow 'the reconstruction of the tower,' which is just the contrary of what Mr. Pearson had recommended. So I caution Canon Argles not to fall into his own trap in that respect. The circular is also 'signed on behalf of the Dean and Chapter and the general committee.'

"6. Though he gladly refers to the 'sanction of the committee' when they have had the good fortune to agree with him, the moment they differ they are flouted in whatever way he thinks expedient. On November 13 'the Chapter consented to call a meeting to consider Mr. Pearson's several designs.' It soon became apparent that Canon Argles and his party were in a small minority, and so he objected that the meeting was too small, and he and his party would not vote, but eight did vote against him. Then came our meeting, where there was to be no voting, but the two objecting Canons had really nothing to say except that they did object. Then there was another committee meeting called, which was much too large for him to call small, and the majority was exactly three to one, as I explained. Thereupon, he comes out with what he is pleased to call an eirenicon, which is the established clerical phrase for a device to get your own way while appearing to give way.

"7. That splendid effort deserves a paragraph of its own, and I should think will satisfy everybody of his competence to be the arbiter over everybody as to the proper mode of restoring a Cathedral. On December 22 the Chapter 'resolved, in reply to the resolution of the committee of the 17th, that they beg to say that the tower may be raised with their assent by the insertion in the contract of the single stage of the Norman arcading, as recommended by the committee' (as the only pressing question yet), 'provided the funds are forthcoming, and that the pointed arches east and west as before be proceeded with.'

"8. Just conceive three men who happen to have the legal power over a Cathedral overriding £20,000 worth of subscribers with such a resolution as that, in order to stick in two good-for-nothing pointed arches, with everything else Norman above and below and all round them—for, it is the most completely Norman interior in all England—and they have not one word to say for it except that they were there before. And why? The answer to that is another curious fact in the case. The very able clerk of the works there, who had restored several Cathedrals under Scott, has discovered proofs, which nobody disputes, that those two intruding arches were nothing but an *ex post facto* makeshift of the 14th century builders, who had first tried to erect a light and low lantern story on the top of all four Norman arches, and then found that the east and west ones were so much worse than the others that they would not bear any lantern, and so they had to pull it all down again and put in those arches, which are, of course, stronger and lighter than round ones; besides that, the old builders always built in their own style. Canon Argles and his two satellites are determined to deface the Cathedral for ever with those monstrosities now to be interpolated in the midst of Norman work, which they never were before. His polemicon of prohibiting any Norman restoration except where actual Norman remained was ridiculous enough, but his eirenicon is still more absurd.

"I will not write a word of architectural argument at present, though I need not say that I have plenty to say on that point. The present is the moral question—whether a committee which the Chapter constituted to give confidence to the subscribers is to be overridden by such lunacy as this. The faculty committee at St. Albans had absolute power, and everybody who subscribed knew it; and yet when
the minority thereof desired to appeal to the su
scribers we allowed them, and had the satisfaction
beating them there still more, and then the minori
in the committee sank to two, who thereupon d
creetly abdicated. There the question was the sa
—viz., whether to rebuild the late and bad Goth
work or the early and good. Mr. Fergusson tr
says in this month's *Nineteenth Century* that proba
no one now wishes it had been done otherwise.
it will be at Peterborough. When these obstructi
have been beaten, as they must be, Peterborou
Cathedral, with very nearly the longest nave in E
land, and one of the four or five widest towers, w
again have it of the proper height, with the *tres h*
toriæ recorded of the old one, though the style of t
top story, the rebuilt Decorated one, will be la
than of the lower stories, as it is at York, and Linco
and Durham, and Salisbury, and more or less in so
others.

"The Chapter wants ever so much more for gene
repairs. How much do these three Canons exp
anybody to trust them with hereafter if they d
everybody who finds it and their own archite
without having a word of reason to give for it?"

THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURC IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Dr. Johnson's well-known journey to Scotland
made in the year 1773. His chief or only reason
undertaking it was to see the Highlands, and m
particularly the Hebrides; and therefore we m
not be surprised that his notices of the Episco
Church are few and meagre, strong Churchm
though he was, especially as at that time the pe
laws against our Church not having been
rescinded but being only relaxed, or rather not
in force, she desired above all things to shun public
to do her work quietly and unostentatiously, and
to attract the attention of any stranger howe
distinguished.

While in Edinburgh before going North, John
accompanied by Sir William Forbes and his
grapher Boswell, attended service in the "qualifi
chapel at the foot of Blackfriars Wynd, which
founded in 1722 by Lord Chief Baron Smith,
whose congregation, together with that of the cha
in the Cowgate founded in 1771, migrated in 181
St. Paul's, York-place. Boswell in his journal
makes mention of this visit to the Blackfriars W
Chapel:—"The Rev. Mr. Carre, the senior cle
man, preached from these words, Because the
reigneth, let the earth be glad. I was sorry to th
Mr. Johnson did not attend to the sermon,
Carre's low voice not being strong enough to r
his hearing. A selection of Mr. Carre's sermons
since his death been published by Sir William For
and the world has acknowledged their uncom
merit. I am well assured Lord Mansfield has
nounced them to be excellent."

Speaking of "the English chapel" at Montr
Johnson calls it "a small church, clean to a deg
unknown in any other part in Scotland, with com
dious galleries, and what was yet less expected,
an organ," which Boswell adds in his journal
"adorned with green and gold." It was while l
ing at this church that Johnson, reminded by
companion that "Episcopals were but Dissenters h
they were only tolerated," made the remark "
are here as Christians in Turkey."

"In Aberdeen," Johnson writes, "there is
English chapel, in which the congregation was nu
rous and splendid. The form of public worship
by the Church of England is in Scotland leg
practised in licensed chapels, served by clergyme
English or Irish ordination, and by tacit conniv
quietly permitted in separate congregations supp
with ministers by the successors of the Bishops
were deprived at the Revolution."

Of the church in Inverness Johnson says: "T
is an English chapel, but meanly built, wher
Sunday we saw a very decent congregation."
well's account is fuller, and he takes a different
of the size of the congregation: "The English c
was but mean. The altar was a bare fir table,
a coarse stool for kneeling on, covered with a
of thick sailcloth doubled, by way of cushion.
congregation was small. Mr. Tait, the clergy
read the prayers very well, though with much o
Scotch accent. He preached on 'Love your enen
It was remarkable that, when talking of the co
tions amongst men, he said that some conne
themselves with men of distinguished talents,
since they could not equal them, tried to deck t
selves with their merit, by being their compa
The sentence was to this purpose. It had an
coincidence with what might be said of my con
ing myself with Dr. Johnson."

On only one other occasion, as far as we know
Johnson present at an Episcopal service (and he
attended a Presbyterian one, notwithstanding
well's earnest entreaty that he should do so)
this was under peculiar circumstances. He w
the time the guest of Sir Allan M'Lean on the i
of Inch Kenneth, off the west coast of Mull.
the afternoon," he writes, "Sir Allan remind
that the day was Sunday, which he never suffe
pass without some religious distinction, and in
us to partake in his acts of domestic worship,
I hope neither Mr. Boswell nor myself will be
pected of a disposition to refuse. The elder o
ladies (Sir Allan M'Lean's two daughters) rea
English service."

It is interesting to note that the feeling in fa
of a liturgy, which has of late made much
among the Presbyterians, existed at the time
Johnson paid his visit to Scotland. He learnt
"the gentlemen with whom he conversed (*i.e.*, i
Hebrides) were all inclined to the English lit
but they were obliged to maintain the establ
minister, and the country was too poor to
payment to another, who must live wholly o
contributions of his audience. . . . The
learned of the Scottish doctors would now g
admit a form of prayer, if the people would e
it. The zeal or rage of congregations has its dif
degrees. In some parishes the Lord's Pray
suffered; in others it is still rejected as a form,
he that should make it part of his supplication
be suspected of heretical depravity."

The following extract refers to the rise o
Moderate school in the Presbyterian Church,
supremacy of which in the first half of the pr
century occasioned the Disruption of 1843;

change of religion in Scotland, eager and vehement as it was, raised an epidemical enthusiasm, compounded of sullen scrupulousness and warlike ferocity, which, in a people whom idleness resigned to their own thoughts, and who, conversing only with each other, suffered no dilution of their zeal from the gradual influx of new opinions, was long transmitted in its full strength from the old to the young, but, by trade and intercourse with England, is now visibly abating, and giving way too fast to that laxity of practice and indifference of opinion in which men, not sufficiently instructed to find the middle point, too easily shelter themselves from rigour and constraint."

But though Johnson marked with concern the doctrinal indifference occasioned by the revulsion from Calvinism, his estimate of those Highland ministers with whom he came in contact was a very high one: "They (*i.e.*, the inhabitants of the Hebrides) have no reason to complain of inefficient pastors; for I saw not one in the islands whom I had reason to think either deficient in learning or irregular in life; but found several with whom I could not converse, without wishing, as my respect increased, that they had not been Presbyterians. . . . . The ministers in the islands had attained such knowledge as may justly be admired in men who have no motive to study but generous curiosity, or, what is still better, desire of usefulness; with such politeness as so narrow a circle of converse could not have supplied but to minds naturally disposed to elegance."

But if Johnson thought well of the Presbyterian ministers in the Islands, he was greatly surprised at the manner in which many of them ministered to their flocks, as the following will show:—"The public acts of the ministry are now performed in houses . . . . It is not only in Raasay that the chapel is unroofed and useless; through the few islands which we visited, we neither saw nor heard of any house of prayer, except in Skye, that was not in ruins."

If Presbyterians are of opinion that Johnson was in some of his remarks unduly severe upon them and their ministers, they will, we are sure, pardon him in consideration of his having, according to Boswell, conferred a signal benefit upon the Highland portion of their Church. We have seen it stated elsewhere that the first translation of the New Testament into Scottish Gaelic was made in 1767, six years before Johnson's visit to Scotland; but we have Boswell's authority for saying that it was Johnson's influence exercised during his visit that procured this translation, the Highlanders having up to this time been obliged to use the Irish Gaelic translation, which was partly unintelligible to them, especially to those living in the central and northern parts of the Highlands:—"We paid a visit," wrote Boswell, "to the principal (of Glasgow University), Dr. Leechman, at his own house, where Dr. Johnson had the satisfaction of being told that his name had been gratefully celebrated in one of the parochial congregations in the Highlands, as the person to whose influence it was chiefly owing that the New Testament was allowed to be translated into the Erse (*i.e.* the Scottish Gaelic) language. It seems some political members of the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge had opposed this pious undertaking, as tending to preserve the distinction between the Highlanders and Lowlanders. Dr. Johnson wrote a long letter upon the subject to a friend, which being shown to them made them ashamed and afraid of being publicly exposed; so they were forced to a compliance. It is now in my possession, and is perhaps one of the best productions of his masterly pen."

Johnson's visits to Iona and St. Andrews, although interesting, we have not touched upon, as they have no connection with the state of the Scottish Episcopal Church in the 18th century; but we cannot forbear quoting, in reference to these visits two sayings of his, which will never be forgotten as long as Christians love and venerate the primitive and mediæval epochs of their Faith—the former written in his journal after viewing the desolation of Columba's Isle, the latter uttered while standing in the ruined Cathedral of St. Andrews:—

"That man is little to be envied whose patriotism would not gain force upon the plain of Marathon, or whose piety would not grow warmer among the ruins of Iona."

"I never read of a hermit but in imagination I kiss his feet; never of a monastery, but I could fall on my knees and kiss the pavement."—*Scottish Guardian.*

EDUCATIONAL.

OVERPRESSURE.

The Sub-Committee appointed by the London School Board to consider the question of overpressure—consisting of Messrs. Sydney Buxton, M.P., R. S. Doll, J. Faulkner, F. Fermor, Albert Rutson, Miss Gladstone, Miss Hickson, Revs. A. W. Jephson, J. H. Rose, R. O. Thorpe, R. J. Simpson, Lady Stephenson, and Major Wade—have obtained much information on the subject, and have submitted the following report:—

"1. They are convinced that the children are, as a whole, not only educationally, but physically, much the better for attending school.

"2. At the same time, there is evidence that under certain conditions (on the one hand, where the child is underfed, suffers from bad health, defective intellect, longstanding neglect or irregularity; and, on the other hand, where the child is over-excitable, too eager or anxious) some over-strain does occasionally occur. But the cases of overpressure are proportionally not numerous, nor is the evil widespread.

"3. They believe that much has been done, and that more in the future will be done, by the New Code to prevent overpressure.

"4. But they think that the New Code cannot produce the results intended, unless it is administered in spirit as well as in letter; and they do not think that this is always the case at present.

"5. With this preface the Sub-Committee beg leave to make the following recommendations:—

"(i.) *Home Lessons.*—As a rule they do not think home lessons desirable, and they recommend that their imposition should be left to the discretion of the managers and teachers jointly. The Sub-Committee are of opinion, moreover, that home lessons should be absolutely prohibited for children below the Third Standard, and altogether in schools of 'special difficulty.'

"(ii.) *Keeping in for lessons in cases of backward children*:—They endorse the recent circular of the Board on this subject, which absolutely prohibits 'keeping in' except for punishment.

"(iii.) *Board inspection*:—They strongly recommend that the Board's inspectors should be more of 'inspectors' and less of 'examiners.'

"They also recommend that, except under special circumstances, the reassessment of Her Majesty's inspectors' reports by the School Management Committee should be discontinued.

"(iv.) *Returns, &c.*:—They recommend that all returns, accounts, correspondence, &c., falling on the teachers, should be, as far as possible, minimised.

"(v.) *Power of withholding children from examination, and from preparation for examination*:—By the Code, the managers have power to withhold children from examination, if they can satisfy her Majesty's inspector of the reasonableness of the ground for withdrawing them. Such withdrawals do not in any way affect the grant. Managers can also, for reasonable cause, present a child a second time in the same standard.

"The Sub-Committee find that these provisions of the Code are not generally understood. They recommend, therefore, that managers should be specifically instructed that they have the power, and ought to undertake the duty, of withdrawing from examination such children as are likely to suffer from the examination itself, or from the preparation for it; and that it should be pointed out to them that they cannot perform this duty unless these children are watched throughout the year. The withdrawal should be consequent on the managers' own observations and the recommendation of the teachers.

"(vi.) *Managers*:—The appointment of competent managers in sufficient numbers is a matter of the greatest importance, and the Sub-Committee recommend it as demanding the serious attention of the Board. It is impossible, without the frequent visits of competent managers, co-operating with the teachers, that the discrimination required by the Code, between those children who are fit and those unfit to be prepared for examination should be properly made; and it is obvious that in many other matters in the course of their school life, some of them bearing on overpressure, children may be materially helped and befriended by the managers.

"(vii.) *Underfeeding and irregularity*:—Though both these matters largely conduce to such overpressure as exists, the Sub-Committee make no recommendation in regard to them. The first subject is now being considered by a council appointed for the purpose; the second is one largely depending on the administration of the compulsory powers of the Board, and on the personal influence of the teachers."

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AID.

The Liverpool Council of Education appears to be doing a most important work, entitling its constitution, scheme, and results to careful and public consideration. It is an institution founded to enable schools who consent to go into union with it to accomplish more than would be possible to any one of them standing alone. It consists of voluntary members, who subscribe a fund out of which the cost of its proceedings is defrayed. During the past ten years it has done a noble work for Elementary schools, which will bear fruit in years to come. It has succeeded in attracting into union with it nearly every Voluntary school in that populous city. The chief condition of union is "the absolute and final closing of the school doors against late comers at fixed hours of the morning and afternoon." Any school violating this condition is struck off the list, unless a fine satisfactory to the Council be paid by the teacher. The first object to which the Council applied itself was the improvement of attendance. It was in furtherance of this that the above rule was made. To encourage regularity and punctuality a scheme of "Good Attendance Scholarships" was established. These conferred free education for a year or half-year upon all pupils who should reach a high and defined standard of attendance. In eight years the Council spent £6,500 on this object. In return for its money it has this result—that the attendance has risen to 80 per cent. of the number on the rolls, the average for all England being 73·2. This is not all; an even better result is that the habit of attendance is now so well fixed in parents and children that there has been no falling off in the attendance, but rather an increase, notwithstanding that this large expenditure on scholarships has been withdrawn and employed in other ways. Instead of scholarships, the Council now gives medals, certificates, and other rewards of varying value. These have been much appreciated, and the attendance continues to be good. Another class of scholarships connects the best pupils of the Elementary with the Secondary schools. They are tenable for three years, and are won by examination. Each confers free education, half the cost of books, and an annual grant of £12 in aid of clothing and maintenance. If one of these scholars decides to become a pupil-teacher he gets help to the extent of £15. There are other scholarships for elementary science. The official reports received respecting the holders of scholarships are most satisfactory and encouraging. Their conduct is almost uniformly good, while the progress made by some is astonishing. Boys of great capacity and industry are rising to distinguished places both in the higher forms of the Liverpool Institute and in the Universities. The efforts of the Council are not confined to boys. Girls are taken in hand with equal liberality and zeal, and, we may add, with equal success. Valuable rewards are given for distinction in religious knowledge. Practical cookery is also encouraged. Grants are made to pupil-teachers who distinguish themselves, and special means are provided for their instruction. Technical education is not uncared for, and thus all that zeal and wisdom can do is done, and Liverpool has great reason to rejoice and be thankful. The whole of this good work, large and varied as it is, is done at a cost not exceeding £1,500 per annum, of which about half is derived from endowments for scholarship, and the remainder from annual and voluntary subscriptions. It is impossible to overrate the good which such a body may effect if adequately supported. Liverpool has shown what can be done, and we commend the example to imitation elsewhere. We ought to add that the Council is establishing a training college for female teachers, on a somewhat different plan from that hitherto pursued in the older institutions. It is to be opened in January next, and we shall watch with interest its early steps.—*School Guardian.*

Mr. H. Clements, a member of the Committee of Representative School Managers, writes to a contemporary:—"As the report of the Sub-Committee of Representative Managers of London Board Schools upon overpressure was published in the London press on Dec. 29 without the knowledge or the sanction of the General Committee, it can have no authority as an expression of the views of the managers generally, and the more especially as the report would have been adversely criticised if it had been submitted, and probably it would have been suppressed, for the following reasons—namely: (1) The Committee was selected by a person who was apparently interested in depreciating the existence of overpressure; (2) almost all the members of the selected Committee were of opinion that there was little or no overpressure; (3) only four out of the ten School Board divisions of the metropolis were represented; (4) it was almost entirely a West-end Committee, and only a few of its members had any real knowledge or experience of educational work; (5) the amount of information upon which the report was based was, it appears, infinitesimally small, and only about two or three hours was spent upon the whole inquiry; (6) the Committee could not examine witnesses; and (7) the report was apparently a rehash of an article written by the chairman. In my opinion the question of overpressure is a very complicated one, and not fully comprehended by the public or even by our educational boards and authorities; for not only the children, but the teachers, managers, members of the School Board, visitors, magistrates, parents, inspectors, and other officials of the Educational Department are involved in this inquiry, so that a mere superficial report is worse than useless. The inquiry by the London School Board ought to be a pretty exhaustive one, and the report ought to be somewhat authoritative and conclusive, provided the teachers are allowed a free expression of opinion; but for the country at large no report except that of a Royal Commission will be considered satisfactory.

BETROTHAL OF PRINCESS BEATRICE.

At Osborne on Monday the Queen gave a conditional sanction to the betrothal of Princess Beatrice to Prince Henry of Battenberg, the condition being that the Prince and Princess reside in England after their marriage and in close proximity to Her Majesty.

Princess Beatrice Mary Victoria Feodora is the youngest daughter of the Queen, and was born on the 14th of April, 1857. For several years her Royal Highness has been the constant companion of her Royal Mother at Windsor, Osborne, and Balmoral; and of late she has frequently encouraged works of benevolence by her presence and assistance. Her future husband, Prince Henry Maurice of Battenberg, is the third son of Prince Alexander of Hesse, and is the younger brother of Prince Louis of Battenberg and the Prince of Bulgaria. He is a little younger than the Princess, having been born on the 5th of October, 1858. He is a lieutenant in the 1st Regiment of Prussian Body Guards.

Referring to this alliance, the *Times* says:—

"The house from which Prince Henry springs is well known in this country, and is already closely bound up with our own Royal house. His cousin is the Grand Duke of Hesse, husband of the lamented Princess Alice; and his eldest brother, Prince Louis of Battenberg, was married last spring to the Grand Duke's eldest daughter, the granddaughter of the Queen, Princess Victoria of Hesse. It is not unreasonable to surmise that the pleasant announcement which we make to-day is the result of the intimacy which must naturally have sprung from the marriage between Her Majesty's granddaughter and Prince Henry's brother. The good wishes of the people of these kingdoms will be heartily offered to Princess Beatrice on this happy occasion. Her devotion to her widowed mother has won her respect and affection wherever the English tongue is spoken. Owing to the many years during which she has been the constant companion of the Queen, the sharer of her joys, the comforter of her sorrows, the public seems to know far more of her than it usually knows of unmarried Princesses of the Royal House, and can thus feel a peculiar sympathy with her now. There have not been wanting of late years occasions on which Princess Beatrice has come forward herself, in aid of some work of charity or general usefulness, to open a hospital bazaar or to distribute prizes to female art students. Her efforts have been watched and appreciated, and general congratulations will attend her on her marriage.

"But, after all, it is the mother and not the daughter of whom the country will think most. All the Queen's other children have married and established homes of their own, most of them many years ago; and now the last is to leave her. The separation is, indeed, to be as slight as possible. Prince Henry is to take up his residence in England, and near to the Queen. But though the separation may be minimised, it will remain none the less a separation. It is now nearly fourteen years since Princess Louise was married to the Marquis of Lorne; and throughout all that time Princess Beatrice has been the constant and often the sole companion of her mother. It is not difficult to realise how great must be the wrench at parting with her. Though the Princess and her husband be settled in Windsor Park or in the Isle of Wight, that will be a very different thing from her daily presence at the Castle, or at Osborne, or at Balmoral. Happily the Queen may look for other companions in her wide family circle. She may count upon the bereaved Duchess of Albany, with whom she shares a great and a recent sorrow; and she is blessed with many grandchildren here and in Germany whose attendance she may command. Whatever the trials of Her Majesty's life, and they have been many and great, she has no slight compensation in the happy marriages of her sons and daughters, and in the unfailing sympathy of her people in all her domestic joys and sorrows. This sympathy will be extended in full measure on an occasion which, while it foreshadows we trust another happy marriage, takes from her home the last of the Queen's children."

THE COURT.

The Queen, the Duchess of Albany, Princess Christian, Princess Beatrice, Prince and Princess Louis and Prince Henry of Battenberg, and the members of the Royal Household, attended Divine service at Osborne on Sunday morning. The Rev. Canon Duckworth officiated. The Hon. Evelyn Moore succeeded the Hon. Maud Okeover as Maid of Honour in Waiting. Sir William Jenner left Osborne for London.

On Monday morning the Queen went out with the Duchess of Albany; and Princess Christian drove with Princess Beatrice, and honoured Mrs. Prothero with a visit at the rectory.

On Tuesday the Queen held a Council at Osborne, at which were present Lord Carlingford, the Right Hon. Sir Richard Couch, and the Right Hon. A. J. Mundella. Lord Carlingford had an audience of Her Majesty. Mr. Charles Lennox Peel, C.B., was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice are expected to reside at Osborne till about February 17 or 20, when the Court will return to Windsor Castle.

On Sunday morning the Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by Prince Albert Victor, Prince George, and the Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud, and attended by the ladies and gentlemen of the household, were present at Divine service at Sandringham parish church. The Rev. F. Hervey, M.A., chaplain to the Queen and domestic chaplain to the Prince and Princess of Wales, rector of Sandringham, officiated, assisted by the Rev. J. Shephard, M.A., Sub-Dean of the Chapel Royal (St. James's), who also preached the sermon. In the evening the Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by Prince Albert Victor and Prince George and by the Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud, were present at Divine service at Dersingham Church, when the new organ, which has just been put up, was used for the first time. The service was performed by the Rev. E. W. Penny, the vicar, assisted by the Rev. C. W. Kelly, Minor Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral, who likewise preached the sermon.

The Prince and Princess of Wales presented the Rev. Arthur Robins, Chaplain to the Queen, their Royal Highnesses, and the Windsor Garrison, with a handsome book as a Christmas gift. It was received on Christmas Day, and contains the autographs of the Prince and Princess of Wales, with wishes for a happy Christmas and a bright new year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The arrangements for the return of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught from India are now complete. Their Royal Highnesses will embark in the Peninsular and Oriental steamship *Carthage* at Bombay on April 3, and will arrive at Plymouth on the 29th of that month.

The freedom of the City by patrimony will, it is expected, be conferred upon Prince Albert Victor this year, after the attainment of his majority. The Prince Consort received the freedom in 1840, and the Prince of Wales in 1863, and among others who were or are also freemen may be mentioned King George III. and King William IV., King Leopold of the Belgians, the Duke of Kent, the Duke of Sussex, the Duke of Gloucester, the late and present Dukes of Cambridge, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Connaught, and the Duke of Albany.

A memorial to the late Mr. Street, the architect of the Royal Courts of Justice, is in course of erection in the Central Hall of that building. The statue will be erected in the second bay on the right-hand side, entering from the Strand. The statuary work has been entrusted to the hands of Mr. H. H. Armstead, R.A., and the memorial has been designed by Mr. A. W. Blomfield.

Hawarden Post-office was almost the whole of Monday occupied with parcels, letters, and telegrams congratulating the Premier on having attained his 75th birthday. Mr. Gladstone walked in the morning to the church, the bells of which were rung, and on the way he exchanged greetings with many old people in the village. In the afternoon some forty of the older female cottagers were entertained at the castle, and the children at Mrs. Gladstone's Orphanage were given a holiday and a treat.

Her Majesty's New Year's gifts were distributed on Thursday in the riding school, Windsor Castle, to the poor of Windsor, Holy Trinity, and Clewer, in the presence of the clergy and a party from Windsor. The gifts consisted of beef, coals, and blankets, amounting to the value of £300. During the distribution the bells of St. John's Church were rung.

The authorities at Greenwich made preparations shortly before midnight on Wednesday to receive the year 1885. The public clock, which has been an object of interest to all persons who, in visiting Greenwich Park, have chanced to pass the entrance to the Observatory, was so altered that instead of indicating twelve o'clock when the neighbouring clocks were striking that hour it pointed to zero, thus showing that the Astronomer Royal had taken the necessary steps for adopting the "universal time." This change will render the beginning of the astronomical day coincident with that of the civil day.

Another sheriff's officer was on Tuesday "deforced" and assaulted in Skye. This man, Grant, from Inverness, left Portree to serve summonses for arrears of rent on fifteen crofters, on the estate of the Rev. Mr. Macpherson Macleod, in Glendale, where the agitation has been carried on with geeat determination for some time, and where a number of marines and police were recently stationed. On arriving at his destination the officer and his witness were driven back by a crowd numbering 300, and it is reported that the witness has been seriously injured; while the officer himself is said to have been knocked down and pelted with clods.

In presence of a large assemblage, the ancient ceremony of serving the boar's head at Queen's College, Oxford, took place on Christmas Day. The head was a splendid specimen, weighing about twenty pounds, and was carried on a massive silver salver.

CHAPPUIS' DAYLIGHT REFLECTORS.—Manufactory, 69, Fleet-street.

We have to announce the death of the Marquis de Fortunato, which took place on Sunday afternoon at his lodgings in Pall-mall. The Marquis was well known and much respected in society and in diplomatic circles from his long residence in London as the accredited servant and friend of the ex-King and Queen of the Two Sicilies. He had been dangerously ill for some weeks previous to his decease.

The three English Masonic charitable institutions, which are maintained by the voluntary contributions of lodges, chapters, and individuals, together with contributions fron Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, and other Masonic bodies, received up to the time the office doors were closed on Wednesday afternoon, the total sum of £48,747 5s. 1d. for the year 1884. Of this amount the Benevolent Institution, which grants annuities to aged masons and masons' widows, received £19,824 15s. 2d., the Girls' School £14,928 19s., and the Boys' School £13,993 10s. 11d. During the last nine years the Benevolent Institution has headed the list six times, and with the exception of 1883, when the Boys' School by an extraordinary and special effort on its behalf received over £25,000, succeeded in 1864 in obtaining the largest amount ever received in one year by any of the three institutions. In the same year the Board of Benevolence, which meets once a month, voted £9,252 to indigent Masons of all nationalities, and the widows and orphans of deceased Masons; but in doing so they exceeded the income of the Fund of Benevolence by about £2,000, for which sum they had to draw on the capital of the Fund.

An extraordinary affair has occurred at Chiswick. A young servant girl, after having received from her mistress some instructions which appeared to annoy her, destroyed various household articles, and then, taking two of the children out for a walk, threw them into the Thames, afterwards jumping in herself. Fortunately they were observed by some boatmen, although when brought ashore they were all nearly lifeless.

Mr. John Bright, M.P., has written the following letter to Mr. James Somervell:—"*Rochdale, December* 31, 1884. Sir,—I enclose the paragraph which is published as a portion of your speech, and which causes me to write the letter of which you complain. You assume that the part I took in the anti-Corn Law movement was prompted by the fact that the size which is necessary in the weaving of cotton goods would be made more cheap, and that self-interest was my ruling motive. In this you wished to convey to your audience an impression which is entirely false. You then say that I did not reduce the price of my goods for all that. Are you not ignorant if you do not know that the competition among manufacturers will give to the consumer whatever advantage is gained by cheapening the mode or course of manufacture? You speak of those goods sent to India and Africa—countries to which I have not been in the habit of shipping cotton goods. Manufacturers, as you ought to know, make the goods which their customers order, and are not responsible for the countries to which they are sent. You say that I have done my best to ruin the British farmer—that is, with the purpose to ruin him—which you cannot know to be true, and which I think you know to be false. What you say about unclothing the very nigger is so very silly that I will not comment upon it. If you say that the extract which I enclose is no part of your speech, I shall express my regret at having said anything upon it; but if the extract is a fair representation of what you said, I must adhere to the terms of my letter, although it may not be pleasant reading for you. I shall be glad if you will publish your letter of yesterday and this reply.—I am respectfully, —John Bright."

A disaster occurred on Thursday morning on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway by which several of the passengers of an excursion train from Sheffield lost their lives, and upwards of 30 were injured, some of them very seriously. The cause of the disaster is stated to be the breaking down of a waggon of a coal train near Barnsley Junction, and the consequent pitching of several other waggons upon the opposite set of metals, along which the passenger train was travelling.

A meeting to establish a new branch of the Church of England Working Men's Society was held on Thursday evening in the school-rooms of St. Barnabas Church, Pimlico. There was a large attendance. Lord Ashley presided, and, in addressing the meeting, said he was glad to see it could no longer be said that the clergy were the only people who were interested in the success of the Church of England. They should all feel free to worship the God of their fathers in their own way, and to take as much interest in the good of the Church of England as the clergy, and he was convinced that there were no men who more appreciated that spirit than those who were called their pastors and masters in the Church. He was very glad to see the workmen of this country taking up this question. They lived in days when political power was to be more equally divided, and of all classes the working men of England would have the welfare of the country and of its government in their hands, and they would be especially the guardians of that grand old Church which had been for centuries the palladium of our liberties and of the Constitution. In these days infidelity was making great strides, although some people said that there was much more infidelity 200 years ago. But the difference between then and now was that at the present day infidelity had obtained more in different sections of society, and he was sorry to say that there was a great deal of disbelief in the truth of all revealed religion in the masses of the artisans and working men, who, for better or worse, were destined to be the future directors of the opinion and welfare of the country. Therefore he was glad to see working men becoming alive to the greatness and good influence of the old Church of England. Amid the hesitation, divisions, bickerings, and strife of other Churches they might look around the whole of Christendom, and it would appear that the only form of religious belief which seemed to be gaining ground every year, becoming more solidified, more in harmony with different branches of thought, sinking minor differences, and agreeing on the great truths and principles of the whole Church as recognised by law, was that represented by the Church of England. In those days rank and position played a subordinate part in comparison with the interest which they all in common took in the prosperity, honour, and liberty of the country, and of their grand old Church. He was glad to see working men and artisans were taking up this movement, to which he wished every success. Mr. C. Powell, general secretary of the society, Mr. Witchery, the Rev. Alfred Gurney, vicar of St. Barnabas, and other gentlemen having spoken, and resolutions having been passed pledging the meeting to support the society, the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to Lord Ashley for his presence and address.

We have to announce the death of the Earl of Morton, which happened at the close of last week, in the 67th year of his age. The Right Hon. Sholto John Watson Douglas, 20th Earl of Morton, and also Lord Aberdour and Dalkeith in the Scottish Peerage, was born at Berlin, April 13, 1818, being the eldest son of George, 19th Earl, by his marriage with Frances Theodora, eldest daughter of the late Right Hon. Sir George Rose, G.C.H. He was for some time lieutenant in the 11th Hussars, but retired in 1844. He succeeded to the honours of the Peerage at his father's death in March, 1858; he was a magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for Midlothian and Argyllshire, and Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of the Midlothian Yeomanry Cavalry. He had been a representative Peer for Scotland for a quarter of a century. His Lordship was twice married, first, in 1844, to Helen, daughter of the late Mr. James Watson, of Saughton, county Midlothian, who died in December, 1850; and, secondly, in 1853, to Lady Alice Anne Caroline Lambton, sixth daughter of John George, first Earl of Durham, a Lady of the Bedchamber to the Princess of Wales. He is succeeded by his only son, by his first marriage, Sholton George Watson, Lord Aberdour, who was born in November, 1844, and married, in July, 1877, the Hon. Helen Geraldine Maria Ponsonby, daughter of Lord de Mauley.

The death is announced at the age of 69 of Mr. George Trist, head of the old-established firm of Norton, Trist, Watney, and Co., auctioneers and surveyors. Mr. Trist will be missed, not only by frequenters of the Auction Mart and members of the Skinners' Company, of which he was Master over 20 years ago, but also by those who have attended the many arbitrations held of late years to determine the value of City property required for railway and street improvements, at which Mr. Trist gained great respect from the skilful and conscientious character of his evidence. To the last he was steadily opposed to the rapidly-growing practice of sharing commissions between auctioneers and solicitors.

In addition to the estate of Fyvie, the property of an old branch of the Gordons, Pittodrie, an estate which has long belonged to the Erskines, is now to be sold by auction. It is described as a freehold residential property of 3,000 acres, situate in Chapel of Garioch, Aberdeenshire. The bulk of the estate is of rich superior agricultural property, let at low rents, and principally upon leases; while more than 1,000 acres are wood and grouse lands, yielding excellent shooting. The *Elgin Courant* states that these lands form part of the clebrated mountain of Benachie (1,700ft.), and this portion of the property is of a highly picturesque and romantic character. The mansion-house is comfortable and commodious. It has been in the hands of the present family since the year 1550, and there are many interesting relics of antiquity on the estate. The actual rental, without estimating the value of the mansion-house and shooting, is about £2,400 a year.

An energetic protest is made in the *Western Morning News* against the excessive punishment of boys on board Her Majesty's ship *Northumberland*. Her crew includes 140 boys. "During the late cruise, and also since her arrival home, the amount of corporal punishment inflicted is (our contemporary says) truly horrifying. Almost every morning batches of the boys, from half-a-dozen to eighteen in number, have been caned or birched, chiefly the former, with great severity, the sufferers often being removed in various stages of insensibility. The ship's corporal has been repeatedly enjoined to greater vigour by the officer superintending these floggings, and the bruised and bleeding backs of the boys, and their writhings and howls, have testified to the vigour of his arm. The frequency and severity of these punishments have become a matter of loud protest among the able-bodied blue-jackets, who are themselves protected by law from similar tortures. The offences for which these almost daily whippings have been inflicted are said to be of a trivial character."

The death is announced of the Rev. William Cooke, D.D., a distinguished Minister in the Methodist New Connexion body. He was born in the year 1806, and was consequently in his 79th year. He entered the ministry in 1827, and from that period his life was one of great activity, both literary and political. He filled in succession, and with much acceptance, all the important offices of his denomination, and his name was as widely known in the United States and in the colonies as in his own country. Dr. Cooke was the author of *Christian Theology Explained and Defended*—a work which has had a very large circulation; *The Bible: its Trials and Triumphs*; *The Earnest Minister: a Memoir of T. Carlisle*; *The Lay Ministry*; *The Shekinah*; and other works, including a number of polemical treatises in connection with Roman Catholicism. Great personal influence was exercised by Dr. Cooke during his long ministry of fifty-seven years. He leaves behind him a widow and a numerous family.

Two serious railway collisions occurred on Monday. At Crow Nest Junction, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, an express passenger train from Liverpool dashed into a loopline in which was standing a coal train which had just been shunted from the main line. About twenty-four passengers were injured. The other collision took place at St. Paul's-road Junction, between King's-cross and Camden-road stations, where the metropolitan section of the Midland Railway joins the main line. There the 6.5 train from Moorgate-street for South Tottenham having got upon the main line was overtaken by a Great Eastern train from St. Pancras, and a collision ensuing both trains were thrown off the rails, but the passengers appear to have escaped with a shaking and fright, for they were all sent home in cabs. The fireman of the Great Eastern engine was, however, so seriously hurt that it was necessary to convey him to the hospital, where he has since died; while the front guard of the Great Eastern and the rear guard of the Midland train were also much injured.

The sentence of death passed on Elizabeth Gibbons for the alleged murder of her husband at Hayes has been respited pending the further announcement of Her Majesty's pleasure.

In twenty-eight great towns of England and Wales the annual rate of mortality was last week 20·2 per thousand, ranging from 13·2 at Birkenhead to 32·2 at Leicester. In London the rate, which had been 22·9, 21·3, and 20·7 in the three preceding weeks, further declined last week to 18·6. In the twenty-eight towns there were 28 deaths from diphtheria, including twenty in London. Small-pox caused 47 deaths in London and its outer ring of suburban districts, 3 in Liverpool, and 1 in Brighton. The number of small-pox patients in the Metropolitan Asylum Hospitals, which had been 1,027, 1,019, and 1,026 on the three preceding Saturdays, rose to 1,076 at the end of last week; but the admissions, which had been 263, 190, and 244 in the three previous weeks, declined to 161 last week.

An extraordinary scene was witnessed on Wednesday night in a lodging-house in Shoreditch, not far from the old Great Eastern Station, where an excellent supper was provided, at the price of 2d., for some fifty labourers out of work, who had been collected by Mr. C. Powell, secretary of the Church of England Working Men's Society. Two helpings of roast beef, potatoes, and greens, some excellent plum pudding, and fruit was the bill of fare, to which ample justice was done, and half a pint of beer was allowed to each man. Tobacco was served out after supper, and coffee was provided. The room was tastefully decorated by the Kilburn sisters of the Church, and in another house a Christmas-tree was provided, with presents for women and children. Songs, readings, and recitations were the order of the evening, and the faces of the men were a study. Care was written on nearly every brow, and vice on many. There were old and young, artful and simple, but one and all seemed really grateful for the pains taken to enable them to help themselves and pass the last night of the old year in comfort and festivity. Mr. C. Powell's health was received, as it deserved to be, with rapturous applause. Shortly after eleven o'clock the merriment ceased, and a short religious service was conducted by Mr. C. Powell, who was very ably assisted by Mr. E. M. Ingram and other working men. Mr. Powell gave a touching address, in which he spoke of the way in which commercial men balanced their books at the end of the year, and showed the corresponding duty of Christians taking stock of their spiritual condition.

A Parliamentary return of all convictions since the 29th day of September, 1883, to the 29th of September, 1884, of persons arrested for drunkenness on Sunday in Scotland, indicating the number in each particular county or burgh, has been issued. It shows that among the total population of 3,735,573, the number of convictions was 2,496, there being 2,301 in the burghs out of a population of 1,609,598, and only 195 in the counties, with a population of 2,125,975. In the counties of Argyll, with a population of 87,223; Bute, with 9,366 inhabitants; Caithness, with 33,793; Clackmannan, with 16,868; Ross and Cromarty, with 78,547; Elgin, with 36,375; Inverness, with 73,089; Kincardine, with 34,464; Kircudbright, with 37,559; Orkney, with 32,044; Selkirk, with 10,236; Sutherland, with 23,370; and Zetland, with 29,705, not one conviction has been recorded during the twelve months to which the figures relate. Haddingtonshire stands highest among the counties, with 29 convictions, the population being 38,502. Of the burghs, Glasgow, with a population of 511,532, has 984 convictions; Greenock, with 65,884 inhabitants, comes next, with 249 convictions; Edinburgh, with a population of 228,357, has 212 convictions; Aberdeen, with a population of 87,223, has 169 convictions, as against 106 in Dundee, with its population of 142,454. Rothesay, with 8,291 inhabitants, is the only burgh which returns only one conviction; and there are four burghs which have had none—Kirkcaldy, with a population of 23,288; Montrose, with 14,973; Pulteneytown, with 5,072; and Maxwelltown, with 4,568.

An incident of a most distressing character occurred in Sheffield on Sunday morning. For some time there has lived at 83, Ecclesall-road, with his family, Mr. Fuller, greengrocer and milk dealer. Mrs. Fuller was recently confined, and for the last few days she has been suffering from brain fever. Anxiety for his wife and the cares of business seem also to have affected Mr. Fuller, for early on Sunday morning the neighbours heard sounds as of crockery and glass being smashed, and the children screaming most piteously; this was followed a little later by cries of "Murder," and then Sergeant Straw and another constable forced the door to enter the house. A window opens on to the leads over the shop, and as soon as the constables came Mrs. Fuller opened the window and threw one of the younger children out on to the leads. She then stepped out, and, saying to her husband "Follow me, Bill," she sprang from the leads into the street, dropping a distance of about fourteen feet. The husband obeyed her, and, taking up the child, he tossed it down to his wife. She ran forward and caught it. Mr. and Mrs. Fuller had nothing on but their night-dresses, and the child was altogether naked. A constable entreated them to return to the house, but they positively refused, and, taking hold of arms, they walked down the street singing a hymn. The constable asked them to go to chapel with him, and they at once consented. The constable led them towards the Highfield Police-station, nearly a mile off, and when they got there they were nearly perished. Inspector Bradbury furnished them with rugs, and every attention was shown them. Meanwhile Sergeant Straw, who had gone into the house, witnessed a shocking sight. Crockery, glass, mirrors, and furniture had been smashed to atoms, and lying about were knives, an axe, hammers, and other deadly weapons. A baby was lying partly in a bowl of water, and two other children were in bed dripping wet. They told a pitiful story of what their father and mother had been doing to them. A cab was procured, and about six o'clock Mr. and Mrs. Fuller were taken home, and left in charge of a policeman and friends. About ten o'clock, however, husband and wife succeeded in smashing the window and getting on the leads again, and caused great excitement in the street. Ladders were procured, and after much trouble they were got back into the house. More stringent precautions were then taken to keep them from harm, and on Monday they were removed to a place of safety.

The incumbent of the French Anglican Church, Bloomsbury, on Christmas morning announced from the pulpit that he was grieved to state that on so important a festival there would be no music or singing. Without giving him notice the choir and organist were not present; and what he had feared for some time was that the trustees, as a protest against the Government withdrawing the incumbent's grant, had determined to close the church. He was, as they all knew, ready to continue his services; he had no feeling against the vestry, although he disagreed with their intention of closing the church. At the close of the service the congregation met, and it was decided to protest by a public meeting against the closing of the church.

Cardinal Newman on Christmas-day occupied the pulpit of the Oratory at Edgbaston, and preached to a large congregation. He said it was some years since he had been able to address them, but being now a little stronger he felt that it was his duty to try to speak to them again. He then went on to deal with the thoughts suggested by the Christmas festival. It was, he said, a time of special joy and special exultation of the most innocent kind. They looked upon Christmas-day as a day for family meetings to renew, in accordance with one of the great ordinances of God, the family associations. From that point of view Christmas was opposed to many of the most dreadful and cruel theories advocated at the present day. It was a time of rejoicing of the kind he had described, and no one could find fault with them if they did rejoice in such other ways as were not harmful. The Cardinal then dwelt on the religious aspects of Christmas, illustrating the life, work, and teaching of Jesus Christ by contrasting them with the life, work, and teaching of the Old Testament teachers and leaders, Moses, Samuel, David, and Solomon; and concluded by enforcing the great lessons of Christmastide.

Throat Irritation and Cough.—Soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes, 7½d., tins 1s. 1½d., labelled, "James Epps and Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London." Dr. George Moore, in his work on "Nose and Throat Diseases," says: "The Glycerine Jujubes prepared by James Epps and Co. are of undoubted service as a curative or palliative agent." While Dr. Gordon Holmes, Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Era Infirmary, writes: "After an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit (with or without medical treatment) in almost all forms of throat disease."

A single bee, with all its industry, energy, and the innumerable journeys it performs, will collect only about a teaspoonful (*i.e.*, one dose) of Hoge's Horehound Honey during one season. It would take thirty-two bees an entire season to fill one of the bottles of this wonderful, natural, and strongly medicinal remedy, which is supplied by any chemist at 1s. 1½d. per bottle. Does not the contemplation of this, and the fact that the Right Honourable John Bright, Marie Roze, the Lord Mayor of London, and numbers of others, say Hoge's Horehound Honey cured them of bad coughs, chest complaints, &c., create an interest in the article and encourage you to try it.

Messrs. Mayer and Co., of Munich, and 149, New Bond-street, London, solicit a visit to their showrooms, where they have always on view stained-glass windows and other objects of ecclesiastical art, executed for almost any part of the kingdom. Messrs. Mayer and Co. will have great pleasure in submitting designs and estimates for any window in contemplation, free of all charge.

Metropolitan Free Hospital.—The aggregate number of patients relieved during the week ending Dec. 27 was—medical 586, surgical 576; total 1,162, of which 526 were new cases.

BIRTHS.

Dec. 21, the wife of the Rev. Charles Morris, Strete Vicarage, near Dartmouth, of a son.

Dec. 22, at Holm Leigh, Streatham, the wife of General P. L. Holmes, Madras, Retired, of a daughter.

Dec. 24, the wife of the Rev. James Foord, Kirk Ella Vicarage, Hull, of a son.

Dec. 25, at Braythay Vicarage, the wife of the Rev. H. S. Callender, of a daughter.

Dec. 27, at 9, Vicarage-terrace, Leyton, Essex, the wife of the Rev. Charles Edmunds, of a daughter.

Dec. 27, at Slingly House, the Bank, Highgate, N., the wife of the Rev. T. Lionel Walton, of a daughter.

Dec. 28, at Cample, Musselburgh, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel Rowley R. C. Hill, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Dec. 23, at the Church of Over Stowey, Somerset, the Rev. Edward Herbert Sweet-Escott, M.A., Balliol College, Oxford, Assistant Master at Dulwich College, to Anna Frances, elder daughter of the late Henry Robertson, Esq., J.P., of Over Stowey.

Dec. 26, at St. Mary's, the parish church, Lewisham, Charles William, son of the Rev. A. C. Stevens, Vicar of Portslade, and Rector of Hangleton, Sussex, to Alice, second daughter of R. H. Poland, Esq., of Eliot Vale, Blackheath, S.E.

Dec. 30, at S. Mary's, Bitton, the Rev. Walter Allan Moberley (youngest son of the Lord Bishop of Salisbury), Vicar of the Church of the Ascension, Lewisham, to Mary Aprilla, eldest daughter of the Rev. Canon Ellacombe, Vicar of Bitton.

Dec. 30, at St. Luke's, Maidenhead, the Rev. George Osmond Lees Thomson, Head Master of the King's College, Taunton, to Louisa Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the late Samuel Alderson Plumbe, M.D., of Maidenhead.

Dec. 30, at St. Mary Abbott's, Kensington, the Rev. Maynard Whitworth Hay, M.A. Oxon., to Edith, second daughter of the late John Alexander Russell, Esq.

DEATHS.

Dec. 23, at Crofton Hall, Wigton, Cumberland, Sir Robert Brisco, Bart., aged 76.

Dec. 26, very suddenly, Lieutenant-Colonel G. Leigh Lye, of Brae Side, Ramsgate, late of H.M. 28th Bombay N.I.

Dec. 26, at 14, Lansdown-crescent, Bath, George Stuckey Lean, Junior, M.A., of Trinity College, Oxford, and Lincoln's-inn, Barrister-at-law, aged 33.

Dec. 27, at St. Margaret's, Westbourne, Bournemouth, Mary, widow of the late Rev. W. M. H. Williams, Rector of Orchard Leigh-cum-Lullington, aged 84.

Dec. 29, at Covington Rectory, Kimbolton, Elizabeth, the beloved wife of the Rev. R. L. Watson, Rector, aged 57.

Dec. 30, at Wimborne Minster, Dorset, Dorothea Frances, widow of the late Rev. Henry Davis, Rector of Tarrant Monkton, Dorset, in her 65th year.

Dec. 30, at Alfreton Vicarage, Derbyshire, Edith, wife of the Rev. W. H. Draper, and eldest daughter of the Hon. Mr. Justice Denman, aged 29.

LATEST NEWS.

MADRID, Jan. 2.

Fresh shocks of earthquake were felt yesterday evening at Nerja, Algarrobo, Granada, and Malaga. The panic continues. A number of towns and villages are completely destroyed and deserted. The population are encamped in the fields, and at some places sleep in railway carriages.

A Central News telegram from Alhama, dated Jan. 2 says:—Another terrible night has been passed by the inhabitants of this place. The recurrence of shocks during yesterday sent the whole of the unfortunate people to the open spaces outside the town, where they camped in terror-stricken crowds. Well it was they did so, for during the night the earth was again violently shaken, and such of the houses of Malaga as had withstood the former shocks fell in. The town is now a complete ruin. I cannot learn whether there was any further loss of life by last night's visitation, but it is generally believed that no one remained under the cracked dwellings. Had the people returned to their homes the loss of life would last night have been again very great. The distress among the unfortunate victims is terrible, exposed as they are to the bitter winter blasts, many insufficiently clad, and nearly all having but slender rations to keep body and soul together. Local help is totally inadequate to meet the pressing emergency.

The railway station is besieged, and the trains are packed with those anxious to obtain security in safer districts. Many are unable to get away, and the scenes amongst these is described as heartrending.

PARIS, Jan. 2.

The French naval force in Chinese waters is to be further augmented. Four additional cruisers have been ordered to prepare for service, and as soon as they are equipped they will be sent to join the fleet under Admiral Courbet.

CAPE COAST CASTLE, Dec. 9 (*viâ* Liverpool).

On the 12th of November Prince Boarkie and his son, with a strong party of Ashantees, attacked Mansu, a town of some importance lying north of Coomassie. They were defeated with a loss of forty killed and many prisoners, among the latter being Boarkie and his son, Quasie Karsah. The King of Mansu is now awaiting the arrival of a commissioner from Governor Young to inquire into the cause of this attack of the Ashantees, and unless this is satisfactorily accomplished there is little doubt that Boarkie and the other prisoners will be put to death. Boarkie was the ambassador who was sent to the late Governor, Sir Samuel Rowe, by the late King Mensah. He bears a bad reputation.

It is rumoured that a new King is to be placed on the throne of Ashantee early in the new year. He is a son of the late Queen of Djuabin, who was some years back a political prisoner at Christiansborg, where she ultimately died. Should this occur, it is expected that good results will follow, the new King belonging to the direct Royal line, and the Djuabin people generally being good traders, and far more peaceably inclined than the Ashantees.

MELBOURNE, Jan. 1.

Mr. Murray Smith, the Agent-General for Victoria in London, has been instructed to make a vigorous protest against the recognition of German claims to a portion of New Guinea, and to declare that if the territory in question be not claimed back and the New Hebrides preserved, the feeling of estrangement on the part of the colonists from the mother-country will increase.

The fresh shock of earthquake in Granada last Wednesday evening is described as more severe than any experienced since Christmas night. The population abandoned their houses, and remained in the streets all night. The special correspondent of the *Standard*, who has started for Granada, describes the alarm which, on arriving at Cordova, he found prevailing at that place, notwithstanding but little damage had there been done. Shocks continue at Jaen, Torrox, Malaga, Benamargoza, and Velez Malaga. Several severe shocks were felt at Torrox on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning, destroying more buildings. The town has been completely abandoned by the inhabitants. At Nerja the church has been severely damaged, and religious services are being held in the open air. At Arenas del Rey three hundred and fifty bodies have been discovered, and over two hundred and fifty persons have been injured. At a meeting held on Thursday, at which the Premier, the Ministers of Finance and of the Interior, and the senators and deputies for the provinces of Granada and Malaga were present, it was decided to send immediate relief to the towns which have suffered by the earthquake, and to provide shelter and provisions for the homeless inhabitants. A national subscription will be opened, to which all Government *employés* will be invited to give the amount of one day's pay. The land tax will also be remitted in the towns which have suffered.

The Prime Minister has been somewhat indisposed during the last two days.

From the South of Ireland an outbreak of a very virulent disease among cattle is reported. A large number of cattle have already succumbed to what is known as "black quarter," a destructive and practically incurable malady. It was thought not to be infectious, but the rapidity with which it has spread has shaken the farmers' belief. The owners of cattle are adopting every precaution against the contagion. A sharp attack of pleuro-pneumonia has also occurred at the Glasnevin model farm, Dublin, and up to Thursday as many as fourteen head of cattle had died, while a number of others remain under treatment. One of the results will be the abandonment of the dairy-farming session arranged to commence next week.

The new Bishop of Ripon (Dr. Carpenter) has expressed his willingness to follow the precedent set by the Bishop of St. Albans in dedicating a cemetery, in lieu of consecrating it in a strictly legal way. The Bishop has informed the Burial Board of Morley, Yorkshire, that he is willing, if the vicar thinks well, to dedicate, instead of consecrate, the Church of England portion of the new cemetery. The vicar had promised to abide by the Bishop's decision in the matter. There is to be but one chapel, and that is to be on the ground intended for Nonconformists.

SOCIETY.

A marriage is arranged and will shortly take place between Viscount Torrington and Miss Emmeline St. Maur Seymour, daughter of the Rev. Henry Seymour, rector of Holme, Pierrepoint, Notts.

Also between Captain Francis Seymour Inglefield, 1st Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment, son of Captain Otway Inglefield, Royal Navy, and Miss Zoë Linwood Strong, second daughter of Mr. Henry Linwood Strong.

Also between Charles, third son of Mr. Thellusson, of Brodsworth Hall, Doncaster, and Constance Mary, youngest daughter of Canon Philips, rector of Bolton Percy, Yorks.

Also between Mr. James Dalison Alexander, eldest son of Mr. James Alexander, and Lady Emily Boyle, eldest daughter of the Earl of Cork and Orrery.

The marriage of the Rev. Walter A. Moberly, younger son of the Bishop of Salisbury, to Miss Mary A. Ellacombe, daughter of the Rev. Canon Ellacombe, vicar of Bitton, near Bristol, was celebrated at the Bitton parish church, on Tuesday. There was a choral service, the officiating clergyman being the Rev. Robert Moberly, brother of the bridegroom. The bridesmaids were Miss Annie Moberly, daughter of the Bishop of Salisbury, and four sisters of the bride. The Bishop was unable to be present.

The Hon. Dulcibella Eden, daughter of Lord Auckland, was married on Thursday morning at Kirk Sandall, near Doncaster, to Mr. Sutton-Nelthorpe. The little parish church was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and a large and fashionable congregation assembled to witness the ceremony, which was conducted by the Rev. G. R. Ormsby, assisted by the Rev. F. S. Tireman (rector of the parish), and the Rev. S. E. Hodgson, vicar of Scawby. The service was fully choral. Amongst the wedding guests were the Earl and Countess of Wharncliffe, Viscountess Boyne, Lady Mary Cooke, Sir Ashley Eden, the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. H. Eden, the Hon. Mrs. Dickinson, Sir C. and Miss Anderson, Sir William Eden, Mr. and Mrs. Wollaston Blake, the Honourable George Eden, and Colonel and Mrs. Hutton. The bride arrived shortly after eleven o'clock, and was led to the altar by her father, who gave her away. She wore a magnificent costume composed of a petticoat of white bengaline arranged in simple long folds; cosaque bodice of silver brocade over a jabot of bengaline, and a long train of silver brocade which was carried by one of her little brothers dressed as a page in a white Gainsborough costume. The bride wore no jewellery and carried a bridal bouquet of white azaleas. There were ten bridesmaids—the Hon. Mary Eden (sister of the bride), Miss Jannetta Sutton (sister of the bridegroom), Miss Violet Dickinson, Miss Beatrice Eden, Miss Elfrida Lloyd, the Hon. Misses Maud and Constance Hamilton-Russell, Miss Tollemache, Miss Paget, and Miss Sibthorpe. They wore white satin skirts with soft silk overskirts and large white caps, shoes and stockings of yellow silk, and carried bunches of yellow chrysanthemums. Their costumes were all after the style of Sir Joshua Reynolds. Sir William Eden was best man. At the conclusion of the ceremony the bridal party returned to Edenthorpe, the seat of Lord Auckland, near Doncaster, where the wedding breakfast was served. Later in the afternoon the newly-married couple left for Devonshire. The wedding presents were both handsome and numerous, and included a considerable quantity of valuable old silver plate.

The marriage of Mr. Henry Graham, one of Her Majesty's Commissioners in Lunacy, with Lady Margaret Compton, daughter of the Marquis of Northampton, was solemnised on Tuesday morning in the parish church of Castle Ashby, Northamptonshire, which was very tastefully decorated. The Dean of Worcester, uncle of the bride, assisted by the Rev. A. Cole Hamilton, rector of the parish, officiated. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a dress of thick white ribbed silk, trimmed with old Brussels lace, flounces and moiré ribbons; and Brussels lace veil, with small wreath of orange flowers. Her ornaments were pearls and diamonds. The bridesmaids were Lady Mabel Compton, Miss Dallas Yorke, Misses Katie and May Drummond, Miss Grenfell, and Miss Fane. They wore dresses of fawn-coloured cloth draped over brown velvet, petticoats trimmed with beaver fur, brown velvet hats and muffs with beaver fur to match. They each wore a daisy brooch of pearls and diamonds presented by the bridegroom. The best man was Mr. R. Grenfell, of the Coldstream Guards. Among the guests were Earl and Countess Cowper, Earl and Countess Brownlow, Lady Marian Alford, the Dean of Worcester and Lady Alwyne Compton. Admiral Hon. Sir J., Lady, and Miss Drummond, Mrs. Graham, the Hon. E. and Mrs. Barrington, the Marchioness of Tavistock, the Hon. F. L. Gower, M.P., Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Grenfell, Mrs. Dallas Yorke, Colonel and Mrs. Dickins, Mr. G. L. Gower, Earl Compton, Lord and Lady William Compton, and many other relatives and friends. After a breakfast at Castle Ashby, the bride and bridegroom left for Compton Wynyates, Warwickshire, Lady Margaret Compton's travelling dress being of sapphire-blue silk, trimmed with blue velvet and otter fur, with cut velvet mantle trimmed with otter fur, and hat and muff to match. Her presents included some very handsome jewellery.

A Cabinet Council was held yesterday at the Prime Minister's official residence in Downing-street. All the Cabinet Ministers were present, with the exception of Lord Spencer and Sir Charles Dilke.

Christmas was favoured on the whole with fine though cold weather throughout England, and the day passed over quietly. In consequence of the prevalent distress in various quarters an unusual number of charitable entertainments appears to have been given to the poor. In Paris the weather was also fine, and the churches were exceptionally well filled. In Vienna, on the other hand, the weather was so stormy that the streets were all but deserted.

The sentence of death passed upon Elizabeth Gibbons, for the murder of her husband at Uxbridge, has been commuted to one of penal servitude for life.

The Grosvenor Bank case, which has during the week been in course of investigation at the Central Criminal Court, has been adjourned to the next session, owing to the illness of one of the jurymen.

THE GROSVENOR GALLERY.

Sir Coutts Lindsay has been very successful in his efforts to bring together in the above gallery a collection of the works of Thomas Gainsborough. There are, all told, 216 works by that painter in the collection; and although many of them have been seen in other galleries in comparatively recent periods, there are several which come before us with all the novelty and freshness of new examples. The management of the gallery are not only deserving of the sincerest thanks for the exhibition of so many delightful pieces, brought together from so many sources, but also for the exhaustive catalogue, full of anecdote and biographical illustration, admirably compiled by Mr. F. G. Stevens. To study Gainsborough thus is the complement of a historical as well as of an artistic education. Thomas Gainsborough was born at Sudbury, in Suffolk, of parents belonging to a Dissenting family, in 1727. His father pursued the useful but cheerless avocation of a shroud-maker. The son's early works were those of the struggling local artist; he painted the "seats," wives, children, and dogs of the neighbouring gentry. In 1760 he went to reside at Bath, the pole round which revolved the world of fashion, and here he met with great success, painting the portraits of some of the greatest notabilities of the period, examples of which will be found at the Grosvenor. Gainsborough was one of the foundation members of the Royal Academy, and a pretty regular contributor to its exhibitions until 1784, when, quarrelling with his fellow Academicians respecting what he alleged to be the unfair treatment of his pictures, he withdrew from that body. He died in 1788, at the age of 61 years. Gainsborough was an artist with many manners, each appropriate to the subject of the moment. Now he reminds us of the French style of his contemporaries and immediate predecessors; now there is a Flemish touch in portrait or landscape; now the old Italians are recalled by some richness of tone or distinction of air. It would have been pleasant and useful to know at what precise period of his career he was more or less under this or that influence.

The gallery opens with the artist's own portrait, (1) lent by the Royal Academy of Arts. No. 7 is the famous portrait of David Garrick, lent by the Town Council of Stratford-on-Avon, to whom it was presented by Garrick on the occasion of the Shakespeare Jubilee in 1769, which the great actor promoted and of which he was president. Gainsborough and Garrick were on intimate terms of friendship, and the artist painted Garrick's portrait at least five times. Of this portrait, Mrs. Garrick used to say that "it was the best portrait ever painted of her Davy." No. 9 is a picture of the accomplished artist Thomas Sandby, R.A., and his wife, seated on a bench in a landscape with trees. Sandby is mentioned as a zealous friend of Wilson in his poverty. "Mrs. Fitz-Herbert" (No. 10), bust size, enables a judgment to be formed of the celebrated beauty who lived on the Old Steyne, at Brighton, when George IV. was Prince of Wales, holding high revelry at the Pavilion. She was said to have been married to the Prince. The portrait is three-quarter face, and in a good state of preservation. In "Lord Clare" (32) the curious see the giver of Goldsmith's famous haunch of venison.

A finer or fatter
Ne'er ranged in a forest, nor smoked on a platter.

The place of honour is given to "The Harvest Waggon" (No. 33), unquestionably one of the finest landscapes ever painted by Gainsborough, by whom it was presented to Mr. Wiltshire. At the other end of the gallery will be found another strong picture, called "The Cottage Door" (No. 98), supposed to be one of the artist's latest productions. It represents an old cottage on the bank of a small stream surrounded by trees. A mother, with a baby in her arms, stands surrounded by five children. This picture is lent by the Duke of Westminster, from whose collection comes also the famous "Blue Boy" (No. 62), respecting which there has been a great deal of controversy, both as to the object of the artist, and whether he painted more than one "Blue Boy." A sketch in monochrome of the "Duchess of Devonshire" (No. 40), a small full-length, should be noticed for the exquisite draughtsmanship. A life-size of the same celebrated beauty (No. 145) is from the collection of Earl Spencer. Of vigorous and successful draughtsmanship the "Sketch of a Boy's Head" (No. 41) affords a grand example. This study was painted at Barton Grange, near Taunton, under these circumstances. A village boy was employed to grind colours for the painter, then on a visit to the Grange. Gainsborough, returning suddenly to the room, found the boy assiduously trying to copy something on a piece of board, while looking upwards earnestly, as if for artistic inspiration. The artist was so struck by the boy's earnest gaze that he immediately dashed off this sketch—a marvellously lifelike and happy example of rapid work. Mr. W. H. Cummings has lent a portrait of "Karl Friedrich Abel" (No. 46), a German musician who came to London about 1761, and distinguished himself by performing on various musical instruments. A well-known example of Gainsborough's delightful skill in the portraits of children is (49) "The Milk Girl." Again, one of his finest landscapes (51) claims the attention. The "Madame le Brun" (No. 63), lent by the Duchess of Montrose, is a charmingly painted three-quarter length of the once popular Italian opera singer. It is difficult out of this collection to select any portrait which has not a history. All the great ones of a century back seem to live again in the present. Here are counterfeit presentments of "George IV., when Prince of Wales;" "Anne, Duchess of Cumberland;" "George Canning, as a young man;" "Fischer, the Musician" (lent by the Queen); "Lord Chancellor Camden," &c,

The collection of drawings by the late Richard Doyle in pen, pencil, and water-colours are exquisitely fanciful, particularly the highly-finished fairy scenes, in which elves and sprites and other creations of the imagination are introduced. One of the most important of his coloured drawings, "The Enchanted Tree" (232), a huge palm, peopled with hundreds of quaint creatures, fairies emerging from flowering plants, mischievous imps, butterflies, and so on, is a work of patient industry and skill; while "The Battle of the Elves and Frogs" (No, 262), evinces his wonderful facility of draughtsmanship and knowledge of colour and composition.

WESTMINSTER HALL.

MR. E. P. LOFTUS BROCK, in a letter to the *Times*, maintains that the side arches on the western wall are not of the date of Richard II.'s work. They are at least 50 years older. The side building which undoubtedly existed along the whole west side belonged to the earlier Hall. These arches form a double tier, one over the other; they are only in a few places chased into the Norman wall, but are simply built against it. They spring from the Norman pilaster buttresses which regulate their width. Their date is shown to be anterior to the time of Richard II., not only by their construction in moderate-sized stones, but by the fact that they are depressed pointed arches instead of being four-centred ones. They are such as we should expect to find in the latter part of the reign of Henry III. or in that of Edward I. The upper ones have received the wall plate of a lean-to roof, while the lower range have taken another plate from which struts for the roof have sprung. This construction prevented the timbers entering the wall. The wall existing between the main buttresses is in some parts earlier. It has a small chamfered plinth and a door-jamb above it, clearly of the earlier date, exists just to the south of the second buttress from the south end. This fragment is built over by later work, probably of Richard II. Much of the masonry of the bases of the large buttresses has an earlier look. Only in the northernmost buttress, a large bold plinth occurs such as we should expect to find in Richard II.'s time. Evidence of older work is apparent on the north side of this buttress, where there is a door or window revel of 13th century work, built over by a window-jamb having the peculiar dotted tooling of the middle of the 14th century, while these are both alike incorporated in the masonry of the buttress, here undoubtedly of the time of Richard II. A reference to Mr. Capon's plan (1828) shows this jamb distinctly, and the holes for iron bars show that its original use was that of an unglazed window. There are indications of the springing of the external arch over it.

The upper portions of the large arched buttresses of Richard's II.'s work were designed to be seen externally. They have boldly designed mouldings which spring from carved corbels always intended to be visible. The evidences are conclusive that the additions to Westminster Hall consisted at first of but one story covered by a lean-to roof, earlier than the time of Richard II., and that the story erected over it was of later date. The western side of the hall was not, in fact, intended to be seen, for it is not according to the spirit of Gothic design for any portion of a building to be unsightly. The bold effect of the fine range of flying buttresses and their pinnacles must ever have been excellent. The fine effect of these buttresses was, of course, materially interfered with when they were obliterated by the upper story. The existence of this excrescence was, however, but of short duration. Agga's map shows that in Elizabeth's time the upper range of buildings had ceased to exist, for the range of flying buttresses can distinctly be made out. This could not be the case had they been then hidden by the flat roof.

The Norman Westminster Hall was no less remarkable a building than the present one. We have at Westminster Abbey traces of the very earliest example of the style in the work of Edward the Confessor. We have the remarkable work of Gundulph at the Tower of London; and this at Westminster Hall is none the less valuable to show the progress which the style had made during the few intervening prosperous years of Norman rule. One work is of value in illustration of the other. The three examples in London show that Norman work excelled what we now know of Saxon buildings by vastness of conception rather than by very much greater excellence of workmanship.

As to the interior, the modern louvre windows have been purposely obscured. Why not retain the louvre windows and make a feature of them? Why not add to the apparent height by a fine row of tall louvre windows, springing, it may be, from behind a high parapet, a design which has been actually carried out in the Palais de Justice at Rouen. That a parapet of fitting design originally existed appears beyond doubt. From the analogy of the original parapets of the Westminster buildings generally that of the Hall was doubtless an embattled one.

MR. WILLIAM WHITE, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., writes that nothing will justify a disregard for the historical architecture of such a building as Westminster Hall. The proposal to raise the walls 5ft. or 6ft. for the sake of light is a case in point. The interior proportions of the Hall would be thereby entirely changed. The proportion of height to breadth would then become approximately as three to four instead of two to three as at present. This would be to the detriment of its apparent spaciousness and to the loss of repose, the absence of which is felt to be so common in modern work. The proposed introduction of lofty dormers for lighting the roof will, no doubt, approve itself to some; but its massive grandeur would be destroyed by the introduction of light for displaying its detail.

The exterior of the roof has been called ugly, heavy, barbarous. It is said that it was never meant to be seen from the western side. But its want of beauty and dignity arises wholly from the mutilation and destruction of the substructure. Its embattled parapets have been removed, together with the two storied building which extended the whole length of the Hall, between the buttresses, with its two-light windows and a subordinated embattled parapet, forming an emphatic and picturesque support to a noble roof.

Mr. Pearson's designs show the conservative spirit in which he has reproduced these features. The evidence of their former existence has been perfectly traced out, and they are requisite for proper effect and correct finish, whether this western side is to be permanently exposed or not. As to the proposal to erect a block of buildings in front of the Hall, there is absolutely nothing to show that in the time of Richard II. there were any buildings on this side excepting the transeptral one at the north end, and that between the buttresses already referred to.

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